

ARTICLE 17(1)

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Notes

ARTICLE 17(1)

TEXT OF ARTICLE 17(1)

The General Assembly shall consider and approve the budget of the Organization.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The structure of this study follows that of the previous studies of Article 17(1) in the *Repertory and its Supplements Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4* and covers material relating to the new form of presentation of the United Nations biennial programme budget and medium-term planning envisaged in the last *Supplement*.¹ Two sections have been added in respect of two special accounts which were established for the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF)² and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)³ under General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) under General Assembly resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

2. As in previous years, the General Assembly continued to be preoccupied with problems such as the constant growth of the budget, the difficult financial situation of the Organization, currency instability, the establishment of priorities, the proliferation of conferences and meetings and the related documentation.

3. While no budget ceiling was specifically established, some delegations repeatedly expressed concern during debates in the Fifth Committee about the constantly expanding level of the budget, particularly as the financial difficulties of the Organization continued to be one of the most pressing problems. By its resolution 3049 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972 the General Assembly expressed the hope that Member States would give priority to making timely payments of their assessed contributions and requested all Member States and invited non-Member States, as a matter of urgency, to make voluntary contributions to the Special Account. By its resolution 3049 B (XXVII) the Assembly endorsed the conclusions of the Special Committee on the Financial Situation⁴ that a comprehensive solution was required for the financial problems of the Organization and that the responsibility for seeking a final over-all solution rested with all Member States and not solely with any single category of Member States. The Special Committee also agreed that the major part of the deficit could be eliminated only by voluntary contributions from Member States.

4. At its 2206th meeting on 18 December 1973, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendations of the Fifth Committee,⁵ decided to establish a Working Group on Currency Instability consisting of representatives of thirteen Member States,⁶ to consider alternative solutions to the difficulties resulting from the effect of continuing currency instability and inflation on the budgets of organizations in the United Nations system. At the twenty-ninth session the General Assembly, by its resolution 3360 (XXIX), noted the statement of the Working Group⁷ that currency fluctuations and inflationary pressures were likely to continue and that there would probably be no early return to fixed values. The Committee was unable to find generally agreed alternatives to policies already being utilized in the United Nations and related agencies.

5. Subsequent to the Secretary-General's statement on 25 September 1975 in which he drew attention to the critical financial situation of the Organization,⁸ the General

Assembly, by its resolution 3538 (XXX), decided to set up a Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations consisting of fifty-four Member States and mandated the Committee to bring about a comprehensive settlement of the critical financial situation. The report of the Committee was considered at the thirty-second session⁹ when the Assembly, by its resolution 32/104, expressed concern about the Committee's failure to reach a consensus on a solution to the financial problems of the Organization; urged all Member States to negotiate with the aim of bringing about a lasting solution; and decided to include the item on the provisional agenda for the thirty-third session. No solution to this problem had been found by the end of the period under review; in its decision 33/430 of 19 December 1978 the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, took note of the Secretary-General's report¹⁰ and the statement of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination¹¹ on the matter and requested the Secretary-General to provide, for consideration at its thirty-fourth session, detailed information regarding the extent, rate of increase and composition of the deficit of the Organization, as well as voluntary contributions received from Member States and other sources.

6. The order of priority among United Nations programmes was another topic that continued to preoccupy the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Under the terms of reference set up by the Council for the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination¹² the Committee was vested with the responsibility of priority setting. Furthermore, by its resolution 31/93, the General Assembly instructed the Committee to determine which programmes, subprogrammes or programme elements were obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective and to recommend their curtailment or termination. In this regard, subsidiary bodies were urged by the General Assembly, in its resolution 32/206, to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes outlined in the medium-term plan.

7. The proliferation of conferences and meetings as well as the growing volume of related documentation continued to be a matter of concern to the General Assembly. At its twenty-fifth session the General Assembly considered reports submitted by the Secretary-General¹³ and by ACABQ¹⁴ and, by its resolution 2732 (XXV), requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to reduce expenditures on documenta-

tion. The Assembly also invited the Joint Inspection Unit to examine and report on recurrent publications and appealed to all United Nations organs to consider ways of reducing documentation. By its resolution 32/72 the Assembly decided to retain on a continuing basis the Committee on Conferences¹⁵ and established its terms of reference to include: advising the Assembly on the calendar of conferences, dealing with departures from the approved calendar of conferences that had administrative and financial implications, recommending means to provide the optimum apportionment of conference resources, facilities and services, including documentation, in order to ensure their most efficient and effective use and advising the General Assembly on means to ensure improved co-ordination of conferences within the United Nations system.

8. The problem continued to be discussed year after year and, at the twenty-ninth session, the Fifth Committee at its 1651st meeting, on 25 October 1974, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the type of record or records of proceedings employed by all organs of the United Nations and their subsidiary bodies financed under the regular budget. The Secretary-General was further requested to propose criteria which would be helpful to Member States in evaluating the usefulness of records and the kind of records most appropriate for each body. The Secretary-General submitted his report¹⁶ at the thirtieth session. In its comments on

this report the ACABQ shared the Secretary-General's concern regarding the multiplication of meeting records and endorsed the criteria he had proposed.¹⁷ The ACABQ noted that the Secretary-General's proposals were intended to reduce meeting records in ways that would not impair the effectiveness of the work of the bodies concerned.

9. By its resolution 3415 (XXX) the General Assembly endorsed the criteria proposed by the Secretary-General as modified by the comments of the ACABQ, requested the Secretary-General to apply the criteria on an experimental basis in 1976-1977 and invited the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council to consider the application of the proposed criteria to their meeting records and to ensure that the meeting records of their subsidiary bodies conformed to those criteria. The Assembly also requested the Committee on Conferences to monitor the application of the criteria. In its resolution 32/71 the General Assembly decided that the criteria should be continued and used more widely. In its resolution 33/56 on control and limitation of documentation, the General Assembly called upon the United Nations bodies to review periodically, on the basis of the statements of financial implications, the requirements for meeting records, to explore possibilities for reduced services with regard to records, to dispense, whenever possible, with meeting records and to report their experience to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

A. The scope of the budget

1. WHAT THE BUDGET COMPRISES

10. Under resolution 3043 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972, the General Assembly approved, initially on an experimental basis, a new form of presentation of the United Nations budget and a biennial budget cycle, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report A/C.5/1429 and Corr.1 and 2 and as modified by the report of the ACABQ.¹⁸ Since 1962 the General Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Council, had repeatedly declared itself in favour of the development, in practice, of an integrated system of medium-term planning and of programme formulation and budget preparation. This trend of opinion had culminated in the submission to the General Assembly in 1969, at its twenty-fourth session, of a comprehensive report on programming and budgets in the United Nations system prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit. In response to that report, the Secretary-General submitted two reports to the General Assembly (a provisional one in June 1970¹⁹ and a more detailed one in November 1970²⁰). In the latter report the Secretary-General dealt with shortcomings in the programme and budget practices and proposed a number of fundamental changes. The proposal encompassed a change in the form of budgeting and the need not only for more centralized decision-making at the inter-governmental level, but also for the improvement of the information and assistance hitherto provided by the Secretariat.

11. The General Assembly, after giving preliminary consideration during its twenty-fifth session to the Secretary-General's proposals as well as to the comments and observations of the ACABQ in its related report,²¹ requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its following session, through the Economic and Social Council, certain further information in order to facilitate a final decision on the question of the form of the budget and the duration of the budget cycle. It was indicated that this report should include, in particular, a mock-up of the 1972 budget in the proposed new form, an assessment of the possible technical difficulties and means to overcome them and a suggested time-table for the

preparation and review of a medium-term programme and budget presented in the new form.

12. The additional material was made available to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session in documents A/C.5/1363 and A/C.5/1363/Add.1. Unfortunately, time did not allow detailed consideration of the matter either by the ACABQ or by the Fifth Committee and it became necessary to postpone the item to the twenty-seventh session. However, the documents in question were taken up by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in November 1971. As indicated in the latter's report,²² most members expressed support for the implementation of programme budgeting in the United Nations and the institution of a two-year cycle. Others, while supporting the introduction of such a system in principle, had misgivings about taking this decisive step before further work had been done to refine and perfect the proposed procedures. The majority view, however, was that the change should be made without further delay since the system could only be perfected as it was being applied. In this regard, the Committee attached to its report, for consideration by the ACABQ and the Fifth Committee, an alternative form²³ of budget presentation which had been prepared by the Secretariat at the Committee's request. Furthermore, in response to questions which had been raised by Member States in respect of important new measures of reform which had been proposed, the Secretary-General submitted another report²⁴ for consideration by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.

13. The new form of budget presentation was implemented starting with the 1974-1975 programme budget. It provided for the first time in a single document a full description of the activities of each organizational unit of the Secretariat and of the resources required for the fulfilment of their objectives. Additional information was also provided on the total resources to be furnished to each organizational unit, including those to be derived from extrabudgetary resources. In addition, efforts were made to provide, to the extent appropriate, a description of programmes and their components, their legislative basis and their objectives.

14. The structure of the budget document was also revised and continued to be improved. Details given in various parts of the biennial programme budget and divided into main fields of activity or major programmes such as those indicated hereunder were preceded by a Foreword by the Secretary-General containing comments concerning guiding principles, the totality of the resources requested, analysis of real growth, main component elements of proposed appropriations, maintenance base, distribution of estimates by main field of activity and a summary of apportioned costs.

15. By 1978 the programme budget was prepared under the following parts:

(A) *Estimates of expenditure*

- I. Over-all policy-making, direction and co-ordination
- II. Political and Security Council affairs: peace-keeping activities
- III. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization
- IV. Economic and social and humanitarian activities
- V. Human rights
- VI. International Court of Justice
- VII. Legal activities
- VIII. Common services
- IX. Special expenses
- X. Staff assessment
- XI. Capital expenditures

(B) *Estimates of income*

16. These major parts are, in most cases, divided into appropriate sections corresponding to major organizational units. Those units are presented by programmes of activity subdivided into subsections representing smaller organizational units or divisions which correspond in the main to subprogrammes. Resources under each organizational unit are also divided into objects of expenditure.

B. The process of considering and approving the budget

1. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PREPARATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF THE BUDGET TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17. At its twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by its resolution 2798 (XXVI), decided to increase the membership of the ACABQ from twelve to thirteen and to amend, with effect from 1 January 1972, rule 157 of its rules of procedure. The membership of the ACABQ was further enlarged by the General Assembly by its resolution 32/103 from thirteen to sixteen members and rules 155 and 157 of the rules of procedure were amended accordingly.

****2. HOW THE BUDGET IS CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

****3. VOTING ON THE BUDGET**

****C. Administration of the budget**

****1. THE NATURE OF THE POWER VESTED IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

****2. PURPOSES OF TRANSFERS WITHIN AND BETWEEN SECTIONS OF THE BUDGET**

****3. LIMITS PLACED ON TRANSFERS BETWEEN SECTIONS OF THE BUDGET**

D. Scope and extent of the powers of the General Assembly to approve expenditures

****1. PROVISIONS OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GEN-**

ERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2. FACTORS CONSIDERED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN REVIEWING PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

18. An additional aspect to be considered in the review of proposed expenditures was introduced by the General Assembly under resolution 3534 (XXX), in which the Secretary-General was requested to include in the performance reports on the United Nations programme budgets relevant information on the staff and resources released as a result of the completion, reduction, reorganization, merging, elimination or otherwise of United Nations programmes, projects or activities. Also, under resolution 31/93, the General Assembly stressed the responsibility of the Secretary-General to draw the attention of competent intergovernmental bodies to activities that are obsolete, marginally useful or ineffective, indicating the resources which could be released so that the bodies concerned might take action.

****3. POWERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OBLIGATIONS INCURRED BY THE ORGANIZATION**

****4. BUDGET CEILING**

E. Extent of control by the General Assembly over budgetary expenditure

****1. THE BOARD OF AUDITORS**

2. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS AND PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE AUDIT PROCEDURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

19. In order to standardize the financial regulations governing external audit, the General Assembly, by its resolution 2885 (XXVI), decided to have amended, effective 1 January 1972, article XII of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations dealing with external audit as well as the annex to the Financial Regulations containing the principles to govern the audit procedures, as recommended in reports of the Secretary-General²⁵ and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.²⁶ Two changes of substance related to the independence of the Board of Auditors and to the nature of certification by the Board of Auditors.

20. To ensure the independence of the Board of Auditors, the previous arrangement whereby the Board was required to consult the ACABQ regarding the scope of the several audits to be made by the Board was deleted from the Financial Regulations.

21. As complete audit at acceptable cost was unrealistic, the previous wording of certification by the Board of Auditors that "the financial statements are correct" was replaced so that the Board would only "sign an opinion . . . that the financial statements . . . present fairly the financial position" of the Organization.

****3. PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORTS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

4. MACHINERY FOR CONTROL AND INVESTIGATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

22. Having realized the important contribution made by the Joint Inspection Unit in the whole machinery of the United Nations system for control and investigation of administrative and financial activities, the General Assembly, by its resolution 31/192, approved the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, thereby retaining the Unit on a permanent basis.²⁷

F. Extrabudgetary funds

1. GENERAL STATEMENT

23. During the period covered by this *Supplement*, several trust funds and special accounts were established to provide support to activities in the political, humanitarian, economic and social sectors.

2. THE PRINCIPAL EXTRABUDGETARY PROGRAMMES

24. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 2678 (XXV) that a comprehensive United Nations Fund for Namibia should be established and, in its resolution 2872 (XXVI), reaffirmed its earlier decision to establish a fund for the purpose of putting into effect the comprehensive programme of assistance to Namibians outlined in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/8473.

25. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was established by the Secretary-General in response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1532 (XLIX) of 24 July 1970 and 1559 (XLIX) of 11 November 1970, which provided for the establishment of a programme of action aiming at the implementation of short-term and long-term policy recommendations to deal with drug abuse. In its resolution 2719 (XXV), the General Assembly welcomed, as an initial measure, the establishment of the Fund, to be made up of voluntary contributions.

26. In resolution 2951 (XXVII), the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations University and decided that the new institution should be guided by the following objectives and principles: the University would be a system of academic institutions; it should have academic freedom and autonomy; its structure should consist of a programming and co-ordinating central organ and a decentralized system of affiliated institutions; and its capital costs and recurrent costs should be met through voluntary contributions.

27. In its resolution 2997 (XXVII), the General Assembly approved the institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental co-operation which involved the establishment of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, a secretariat to service the Governing Council and co-ordinate environmental activities within the United Nations system, the Environment Fund to finance programme activities, and the Environment Co-ordination Board to provide for the most efficient co-ordination of United Nations environmental programmes. The costs of servicing the Governing Council and carrying out secretariat functions are financed from the regular budget. Operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Environment Fund are borne by voluntary contributions.

28. Following its resolution 2999 (XXVII), in which it requested a study on the establishment of an international fund or financial institution for human settlements, the General Assembly, in its resolution 3327 (XXIX), approved the establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for human habitat management and environmental design and improvement of human settlements.

29. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration was established by General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVIII) to be placed in charge of the Secretary-General and administered on his behalf by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and based on the principles and objectives contained in paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV).

30. As regards the United Nations Capital Development Fund which had been established by resolution 2525 (XXIV)

but which up to the beginning of the period covered by this *Supplement* had not yet become operational, the General Assembly decided to reaffirm its establishment in resolution 2690 (XXV), to preserve its original functions in resolutions 2976 (XXVIII) and 3122 (XXVIII), and to continue to appeal for voluntary contributions so as to enable it to become operational.

31. The trust fund for the Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established by resolution 3243 (XXIX) so that additional costs of the Office could be met through voluntary contributions. In resolution 3440 (XXX), the General Assembly expanded the terms of reference of the trust fund to provide instantly emergency assistance and technical assistance for the elaboration of national plans for natural disaster prevention and preparedness. In resolution 31/173, the General Assembly requested a plan for the continued sound financial basis for the core programme, to include transfer of appropriate costs over a period of time from voluntary funds to the regular budget, and extended the fund for two years.

32. The trust fund for the International Women's Year was established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 May 1974. Subsequently, the General Assembly decided to extend the life of the trust fund for the duration of the United Nations Decade for Women and, in its resolution 31/133, adopted the criteria and arrangements for management of the fund, which was renamed the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

33. The articles of operation of the United Nations Special Fund, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, were adopted in resolution 3356 (XXIX).

34. The General Assembly, at its seventh special session, decided, in resolution 3362 (S-VII), to set in motion the establishment of an International Fund for Agricultural Development, to come into being by the end of 1975 with initial resources of SDR 1 billion of the International Monetary Fund. In resolution 3503 (XXX), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries with a view to establishing the Fund as a specialized agency in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter of the United Nations, so that it could commence its operations at the earliest possible date.

35. When the General Assembly took note of the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year in its resolution 3520 (XXX), it also approved the establishment of an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in accordance with resolution 26 of the Conference, to be financed through voluntary contributions and to collaborate with appropriate national, regional and international economic and social research institutes.

36. The special fund for the land-locked developing countries was established by resolution 3504 (XXX) to compensate for their additional transport and transit costs.

37. Following consideration of the report requested in its resolution 3402 (XXX), the General Assembly decided, in resolution 31/202, to establish the United Nations Industrial Development Fund and, in resolution 31/203, adopted the general procedures governing the Fund. The Fund was established to augment the resources of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and enhance its ability to meet the needs of developing countries promptly and flexibly. It was intended to supplement the assistance provided by means of the United Nations Development Programme.

38. The Trust Fund for the International Year for Disabled Persons was established by the Secretary-General in response to resolution 31/123 proclaiming 1981 the International Year for Disabled Persons in order to assist in meeting the General Assembly's objectives outlined therein for the International Year.

39. The United Nations Trust Fund for Chile was established by General Assembly resolution 33/174 to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to persons whose human rights had been violated by detention or imprisonment in Chile, to those forced to leave the country or to their relatives.

40. Special accounts were established by the Secretary-General to receive voluntary contributions in favour of a number of least developed countries which had become independent States during the period covered by this *Supplement*. These were Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Seychelles, Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, Djibouti and Zambia.

3. RAISING FUNDS FOR EXTRABUDGETARY PURPOSES

41. The General Assembly made several appeals for voluntary contributions to extrabudgetary programmes. In this connection, the use of the regular budget was approved to support or supplement certain programmes during transitional periods.

42. In this connection, amounts of \$50,000 were approved for 1971 and 1972, in respect of the United Nations Fund for Namibia, as a transitional measure, in order to enable the existing United Nations programmes to provide greater assistance to Namibians. These amounts were increased to \$100,000 annually for 1973 and 1974, to \$200,000 for 1975 and 1976, and a final grant of \$300,000 was approved for 1977. In the case of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, annual grants of \$100,000 were approved for the years 1971 through 1976, in order to ensure the continuity of the programme pending the receipt of adequate voluntary contributions. In the case of the Special Fund, it was decided, in resolution 3460 (XXX), that the administrative expenses of the Fund, which never became significant because the Fund did not become operational within the period, be borne by the regular budget, and, in the case of the voluntary trust fund for strengthening the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Secretary-General was authorized, in resolution 3532 (XXX), to supplement, with regular budget funds, the target amounts approved in the same resolution for emergency assistance (\$400,000) and for technical assistance (\$600,000) expected to be delivered from voluntary contributions.

43. Appeals for voluntary contributions were made by the General Assembly in favour of extrabudgetary programmes. In accordance with resolution 3124 (XXVIII), the target figure of \$100 million by 1975 was the objective of a pledging conference convened during the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 1974. Annual pledging conferences for UNICEF were requested in resolution 3250 (XXIX) for the years thereafter.

44. The holding of a pledging conference for the United Nations Decade for Women was requested in resolution 31/137 in favour of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and the International Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. In its resolution 32/139, the General Assembly requested that a similar conference be held at its thirty-third session.

45. In resolution 32/166, the General Assembly set the appropriate funding level of the United Nations Industrial Development Fund at \$50 million annually while, in resolution 32/173 of the same year, the appropriate level of funding for the Habitat Foundation was set at \$50 million for the period 1978-1981.

46. In resolution 2973 (XXVII) the General Assembly invited donors to increase their contributions to the United Nations Development Programme by at least 15 per cent annually.

47. Without prejudice to other arrangements for mobilizing additional funds for particular programmes through other measures or from other sources and subject to provision being made for the earmarking of contributions for specific programmes, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 32/197, that there should be held a single annual United Nations pledging conference for all United Nations operational activities for development. The first pledging conference of its kind was not held within the period covered by this *Supplement*.

4. CONTROL OF EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

48. Extrabudgetary funds are managed within the context of the rules and regulations of the United Nations. From time to time, administrative pronouncements are issued to elaborate procedures or define key terms. In cases where a major trust fund or voluntary programme is established, a detailed description of the institutional framework, the objectives and the funding sources are also approved by the General Assembly, or other policy-formulating body, such as the Economic and Social Council.

49. In its resolution 2688 (XXV), on the capacity of the United Nations development system, the General Assembly approved a number of provisions concerning the United Nations Development Programme which have formed ever since the basis for the framework within which the Programme and the executing agencies manage and undertake extrabudgetary technical co-operation activities. These provisions involve definition of the United Nations development co-operation cycle; general principles of UNDP country and intercountry programming; over-all disposition and management of UNDP resources; implementation of UNDP assistance; and organization of UNDP.

G. Special Account for the United Nations Emergency Force and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

1. PURPOSE AND LIMIT OF THE ACCOUNT

50. The Special Account was established under General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1971 initially for the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) but was extended to include the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) by General Assembly resolution 3211 (XXIX). UNEF and UNDOF were established pursuant to Security Council resolutions 340 (1973) and 350 (1974) respectively. The previous UNEF was withdrawn in 1967.²⁸ The main reasons for dealing with UNEF and UNDOF expenditures on an *ad hoc* and separate basis, outside the regular budget, are similar to those indicated in the *Repertory, Supplement No. 2*.²⁹

**2. APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE PARTICIPATING STATES

3. PREPARATION, PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES

51. At its twenty-eighth session the General Assembly considered the Secretary-General's report³⁰ and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions³¹ on budget estimates for the organization, operation and maintenance of a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) of 7,000, all ranks, for a period of six months beginning 25 October 1973, and adopted resolution 3101 (XXVIII). Under paragraph 1 of that resolution, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$30 million for the operation of UNEF for six months through 24 April 1974. By paragraph 4 of the same resolution it authorized the Sec-

retary-General to enter into commitments for UNEF at a rate not to exceed \$5 million per month also for a period of six months from 25 April to 31 October 1974, inclusive.

52. By its resolution 350 (1974) of 31 May 1974, the Security Council established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for an initial period of six months, subject to renewal by further resolution of the Council. Allocations were made for the costs of maintaining UNDOF for the period in question from the authorization available to the Secretary-General under General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII).

53. By its resolution 3211 A (XXIX), paragraph 1, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not to exceed \$5 million for UNEF (including UNDOF) for the period 1 November to 30 November 1974 inclusive. By its resolution 3211 B (XXIV), section 1, paragraph 1, the General Assembly appropriated \$30 million authorized previously in paragraph 4 of resolution 3101 (XXIII), for the operation of UNEF and UNDOF for the period 25 April 1974 to 24 April 1975 inclusive.

54. Since the establishment of the two Forces and throughout the period under review, the Security Council continued to renew their mandate³² and the General Assembly continued to adopt periodically resolutions by which it approved funds for their operation.³³

**4. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

H. Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

1. PURPOSE AND LIMIT OF THE ACCOUNT

55. The Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was established under the terms of General Assembly resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978. The Interim Force was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 April 1978.³⁴ The main reasons for dealing with UNIFIL expenditures on an *ad hoc* and separate basis, outside the regular budget, are similar to those listed previously in respect of the United Nations Emergency Force.³⁵

**2. APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE PARTICIPATING STATES

3. PREPARATION, PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES

56. The budget estimates for UNIFIL were submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/33/292 for approval by the General Assembly. In considering those estimates, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions bore in mind the fact that, by its resolution S-8/2, section I, paragraph 7, of 21 April 1978, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that UNIFIL was administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy. The Advisory Committee recommended that the budget for UNIFIL for the current mandate period should not exceed \$44.6 million gross (\$44.2 net of staff assessment) but that, in the interest of

good management and efficiency, the Secretary-General should be permitted to transfer credits between items of expenditure within the total amount to be approved by the General Assembly.³⁶

57. By its resolution 33/14 the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account the additional amount of \$6,900,000 being the amount of the commitments entered into by the Secretary-General, with prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, under resolution 32/214 of 21 December 1977 for the operation of UNIFIL from 19 March to 18 September 1978, and \$44,568,000 for the period 19 September 1978 to 18 January 1979, inclusive, and requested the Secretary-General to continue maintaining the Special Account for the Force. The Special Account was still in operation by the end of the period under review.

**4. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

NOTES

- ¹ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*, under Article 17(1), para. 1.
- ² Previous UNEF was withdrawn in 1967—see *ibid.*, para. 38.
- ³ Brought under the Special Account—see G A resolution 3211 B (XXIX), section II, para. 1.
- ⁴ G A (27), Suppl. No. 29 (A/8729).
- ⁵ G A (28), Annexes, a.i. 79, A/9450/Add.1.
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 66-67.
- ⁷ A/9773 (mimeographed).
- ⁸ A/C.5/1685 (mimeographed).
- ⁹ G A (31), Suppl. No. 37 (A/31/37).
- ¹⁰ A/C.5/33/46 (mimeographed).
- ¹¹ A/C.5/33/44 (mimeographed).
- ¹² E S C resolution 2008 (LX), annex.
- ¹³ G A (25), Annexes, a.i. 81, A/8126.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, A/8212.
- ¹⁵ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*, under Article 17(1), paras. 29 and 30, and G A resolutions 2239 (XXI) and 3351 (XXIX).
- ¹⁶ A/C.5/1670 (mimeographed).
- ¹⁷ A/10299 (mimeographed).
- ¹⁸ A/8739 (mimeographed).
- ¹⁹ A/7987 (mimeographed).
- ²⁰ A/C.5/1335 (mimeographed).
- ²¹ A/8217 (mimeographed).
- ²² E S C (41), Suppl. No. 9A, E/AC/51/58/Rev.1.
- ²³ E/AC/51/L.66 (mimeographed).
- ²⁴ A/C.5/1429 and Corr.1 (mimeographed).
- ²⁵ A/C.5/1375 (mimeographed).
- ²⁶ A/8482 (mimeographed).
- ²⁷ Also see *Repertory, Supplement No. 4*, under Article 17(1), para. 35.
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 38.
- ²⁹ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 2*, under Article 17(1), paras. 23 and 24.
- ³⁰ A/9285 (mimeographed).
- ³¹ A/9314 (mimeographed).
- ³² S C resolutions 346 (1974), 362 (1974), 363 (1974), 368 (1975), 371 (1975), 378 (1975), 396 (1976), 416 (1977), 429 (1978), 438 (1979) and 441 (1978).
- ³³ G A resolutions 3374 (XXX), 31/5, 32/4 and 33/13.
- ³⁴ Also see S C resolutions 426 (1978), 427 (1978) and 434 (1978).
- ³⁵ See *Repertory, Supplement No. 2*, under Article 17(1), paras. 23 and 24.
- ³⁶ A/33/328 (mimeographed).