

Bearing in mind the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization,

1. Commends the efforts and initiatives of the Secretary-General aimed at reforming the United Nations;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, while implementing the actions described in his report, to take full account of the views and comments expressed by Member States and groups of Member States, including those transmitted in their communications;

3. Stresses that the actions will be implemented with full respect for the relevant mandates, decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

4. Notes that the report of the Secretary-General of 11 September 1997 will be considered in the context of the examination of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

5. Affirms that programmatic implications of relevant actions will be considered in conjunction with related recommendations;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the actions described in his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

7. Decides to continue its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform".

On 19 December, the Assembly continued to consider the reform proposals. Speaking in the plenary, the Secretary-General undertook to submit by the end of March 1998 measures of a longer-term nature within the framework of his reform report; outlines of a results-based budgeting system, together with illustrations on how it would function in the context of the United Nations; and concrete measures on specific time horizons for mandates, whose continuation would require explicit renewal by the Assembly (sunset provisions).

On the same date [meeting 78], the Assembly adopted **resolution 52/12 B** [draft: A/52/L.72/Rev.1] without vote [agenda item 157].

The General Assembly,

Having considered further the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform, and the recommendations contained therein,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 A of 12 November 1997,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 51/240 of 20 June 1997 and 51/241 of 31 July 1997, as well as all other relevant resolutions and decisions, which contain legislative mandates and programme guidance, and, in particular, the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Reaffirming that financial implications of any reform measure or proposal on which the General Assembly is to take action should be considered in accordance with

rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

A. Deputy Secretary-General

1. Decides to establish the post of Deputy Secretary-General as an integral part of the Office of the Secretary-General, as set out in addendum 1 to the report of the Secretary-General and in the statement made by the Secretary-General on 4 November 1997 to the open-ended informal consultations of the plenary on United Nations reform: measures and proposals, without prejudice to the mandate of the Secretary-General as provided by the Charter of the United Nations and, in accordance with the existing system of decision-making, with responsibilities delegated by the Secretary-General, including the following:

(a) To assist the Secretary-General in managing the operations of the Secretariat;

(b) To act for the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters in the absence of the Secretary-General and in other cases as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(c) To support the Secretary-General in ensuring intersectoral and inter-institutional coherence of activities and programmes and to support the Secretary-General in elevating the profile and leadership of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres, including further efforts to strengthen the United Nations as a leading centre for development policy and development assistance;

(d) To represent the Secretary-General at conferences, official functions and ceremonial and other occasions as may be decided by the Secretary-General;

(e) To undertake such assignments as may be determined by the Secretary-General;

2. Notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States and in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and that the term of office of the Deputy Secretary-General will not exceed that of the Secretary-General;

B. New approaches to policy formulation

3. Welcomes the recommendations of the Secretary-General aimed at the rationalization, streamlining and enhancement of the work of the General Assembly, taking into account the measures already undertaken towards this end in order to further strengthen the Assembly as the organ of the United Nations that most fully embodies the universal and democratic character of the Organization;

4. Decides, in this context, to continue during its fifty-second session its in-depth consideration of those recommendations under the item entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", taking into account the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 51/241;

C. Peace, security and disarmament

5. Invites Member States to improve the supply of information to the Secretary-General that could assist the Organization to prevent conflict and maintain international peace and security in full accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Stresses that enhancing the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations can play a valuable role in the effectiveness of its response to a conflict, and, in this context, requests the