



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 142

## United Nations common system

### Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Yaron Wax (Israel)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled “United Nations common system” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 6th and 21st meetings, on 25 October and 27 December 2019. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2019 (A/74/30);

(b) Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2019 (A/C.5/74/2);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/74/7/Add.7).

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<sup>1</sup> A/C.5/74/SR.6 and A/C.5/74/SR.21.



## **II. Consideration of proposals**

### **A. Draft resolution [A/C.5/74/L.3](#)**

4. At its 21st meeting, on 27 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “United Nations common system” ([A/C.5/74/L.3](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Guyana.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/74/L.3](#) without a vote (see para. 8, draft resolution I).

### **B. Draft resolution [A/C.5/74/L.4](#)**

6. At its 21st meeting, on 27 December, the Committee had before it a second draft resolution entitled “United Nations common system” ([A/C.5/74/L.4](#)), also submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Guyana.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/74/L.4](#) without a vote (see para. 8, draft resolution II).

### III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I** **United Nations common system**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [3042 \(XXVII\)](#) of 19 December 1972, [3357 \(XXIX\)](#) of 18 December 1974, [44/198](#) of 21 December 1989, [45/259](#) of 3 May 1991, [48/224](#) of 23 December 1993, [51/216](#) of 18 December 1996, [52/216](#) of 22 December 1997, [53/209](#) of 18 December 1998, [54/238](#) of 23 December 1999, [55/223](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/244](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/285](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/251](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/268](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/248](#) of 23 December 2005, [61/239](#) of 22 December 2006, [62/227](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/251](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/231](#) of 22 December 2009, [65/248](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/235 A](#) of 24 December 2011, [66/235 B](#) of 21 June 2012, [67/257](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/253](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/251](#) of 29 December 2014, [70/244](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/264](#) of 23 December 2016, [72/255](#) of 24 December 2017 and [73/273](#) of 22 December 2018 and its decision 67/551 of 24 December 2012,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

*Emphasizing* the importance of, and benefits derived from, maintaining a coherent and unified United Nations common system,

*Reiterating* its call for all organizations of the United Nations common system to cooperate with the International Civil Service Commission on matters relating to salaries, allowances and conditions of service,

*Expressing its concern* over the inconsistencies in the application of the 2016 post adjustment results at the Geneva duty station of the United Nations common system,

1. *Reaffirms* the authority of the International Civil Service Commission to continue to establish post adjustment multipliers for duty stations in the United Nations common system, under article 11 (c) of the statute of the Commission;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Recalls* that, in its resolutions [44/198](#) and [45/259](#), it abolished the post adjustment scales mentioned in article 10 (b) of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the authority of the Commission to continue to take decisions on the number of post adjustment multiplier points per duty station, under article 11 (c) of its statute;

3. *Urges* the member organizations of the United Nations common system to cooperate fully with the Commission in line with its statute to restore consistency and unity of the post adjustment system as a matter of priority and as early as practicable;

4. *Recalls* its resolution [41/207](#) of 11 December 1986, and reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the governing organs of the specialized agencies do not take, on matters of concern to the common system, positions conflicting with those taken by the General Assembly;

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [3357 \(XXIX\)](#), annex.

5. *Also recalls* its resolution [48/224](#), reiterates its request that the executive heads of organizations of the common system consult with the Commission in cases involving recommendations and decisions of the Commission before the tribunals in the United Nations system, and once again urges the governing bodies of the organizations to ensure that the executive heads comply with that request.

## Draft resolution II United Nations common system

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [44/198](#) of 21 December 1989, [51/216](#) of 18 December 1996, [52/216](#) of 22 December 1997, [53/209](#) of 18 December 1998, [54/238](#) of 23 December 1999, [55/223](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/244](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/285](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/251](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/268](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/248](#) of 23 December 2005, [61/239](#) of 22 December 2006, [62/227](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/251](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/231](#) of 22 December 2009, [65/248](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/235 A](#) of 24 December 2011, [66/235 B](#) of 21 June 2012, [67/257](#) of 12 April 2013, [68/253](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/251](#) of 29 December 2014, [70/244](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/264](#) of 23 December 2016, [72/255](#) of 24 December 2017 and [73/273](#) of 22 December 2018 and its decision 67/551 of 24 December 2012,

*Having considered* the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2019,<sup>1</sup>

*Reaffirming its commitment* to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;
2. *Welcomes* the report of the Commission for 2019;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Reaffirms* the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission;<sup>2</sup>
4. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reaffirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;
5. *Notes with concern* that with regard to the mandatory age of separation for staff having joined the organizations prior to 1 January 2014, while many of the organizations have implemented the mandatory age of separation as approved, some organizations have decided to use different implementation dates;
6. *Reiterates its request* to the Commission to recommend measures to address non-compliance with the decisions and recommendations of the Commission, and requests the Commission to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;
7. *Expresses concern* at the application of two concurrent post adjustment multipliers in the United Nations common system at the Geneva duty station, urges the Commission and member organizations to uphold the unified post adjustment multiplier for the Geneva duty station under article 11 (c) of the statute of the Commission as a matter of priority, and requests the Commission to report on the matter to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;
8. *Notes with concern* that the organizations of the United Nations common system face the challenge of having two independent administrative tribunals with

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/74/30).*

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [3357 \(XXIX\)](#), annex.

concurrent jurisdiction among the organizations of the common system, as highlighted in the report of the Commission, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to conduct a review of the jurisdictional setup of the common system and submit the findings of the review and recommendations to the General Assembly as soon as practicable;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to make every effort to ensure that decisions of the General Assembly are implemented in full and without undue delay across the United Nations common system;

10. *Invites* the Commission to carry out a needs assessment for its communication and legal expertise functions within its secretariat and in relation to its work and engagement with all relevant stakeholders and to present proposals in its next report;

## **I**

### **Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff**

*Reaffirming* paragraph 1 of section I.B of its resolution [72/255](#), in which it approved the principles and guidelines for performance appraisal and management for the recognition of different levels of performance,

*Urges* the organizations of the United Nations common system to continue to abide by these principles and guidelines, and requests the Commission to report on their implementation to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

## **II**

### **Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories**

#### **A. Base/floor salary scale**

*Recalling* its resolution [44/198](#), by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

*Approves*, with effect from 1 January 2020, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 63 of its report, the revised unified base/floor salary scale and updated pay protection points for staff in the Professional and higher categories, as contained in annex IV to the report;

#### **B. Evolution of the margin and margin management around the desirable midpoint**

*Recalling* section I.B of its resolution [51/216](#) and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as “the margin”),

1. *Reaffirms* that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

2. *Notes* that the margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the

United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019 is 113.4;

3. *Recalls* its decision contained in resolution 70/244 that, if the margin trigger levels of 113 or 117 are breached, the Commission should take appropriate action through the operation of the post adjustment system;

4. *Notes* the decision of the Commission to continue monitoring the level of the margin and to take the necessary corrective action under the operation of the post adjustment system should the trigger levels of 113 or 117 be breached;

**C. Education grant**

*Decides* to defer consideration of the recommendations of the Commission on the revised sliding reimbursement scale and the boarding lump sum, and requests the Commission to provide in its next report a detailed review on the scale and the level of the boarding lump sum, taking into consideration a maximum amount per household;

**D. Hardship allowance**

*Notes* the decision of the Commission, in accordance with article 11 (b) of its statute, to increase the amount of hardship allowance by 2 per cent with effect from 1 January 2020;

**E. Mobility incentive**

1. *Notes* the decision of the Commission, in accordance with article 11 (b) of its statute, to set the lower limit of the mobility incentive to 6,700 United States dollars per year and apply the resulting matrix, as outlined in paragraph 142 of the report of the Commission, with effect from 1 January 2020;

2. *Also notes* paragraph 144 of the report of the Commission on its plan for a review of the mobility incentive in 2021, and urges the Commission to conduct a thorough review of the purpose, effectiveness and efficiency of the current mobility incentive programme in encouraging the mobility of staff to field duty stations and to report in detail on the outcome of the review in its report for 2021;

3. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations common system to consider the application of alternative administrative measures, including non-financial incentives, to promote staff mobility.