

My delegation supports introduction of a small, straightforward facility for the 1988-89 biennium as a prototype with full operation starting as part of the 1990-91 programme budget cycle. The initial period would provide valuable experience in use of the facility and agreement on basic elements such as procedures, scope and the split of resources between the two years of the biennium. As regards the size of the contingency fund, the preference of my delegation is for a constant percentage of the regular budget but we would want to see how the fund works before settling on a specific figure for prolonged use. For the coming biennium we could accept the proposal of the Secretary-General for a level of 0.75 percent of the regular budget or we could accept a level slightly higher at say 1.00 percent. In any case, our choice for the 1988-89 biennium should not prejudice the choice for full operation from 1990 onwards.

Second, my delegation believes that the overall level of resources should be established at the earliest stages of the budget planning cycle. The principles behind the Canadian view on this question are explained at some length in a set of budgetary and financial proposals that was prepared specifically for the specialized agencies and that has been circulated widely to Member States. In our view the United Nations Organization is now moving in the proper direction. As a result of resolution 41/213, the Secretary-General will launch preparations for the programme budget for the 1990-91 biennium with a programme budget outline in April 1988. The CPC will then examine the outline and determine the level of financial resources to be made available. My delegation believes that Member States should at that point agree to a level of resources expressed in real terms. This means that having accepted the broad composition of the programme and set the real budget level, Member States would be committed to protecting the budget against further real growth. At this point in time, at the very end of the budget preparation cycle for the coming biennium, the basis of a budget ceiling for the 1988-89 biennium should rest with the Secretary-General's proposals and the ACABQ recommendations.

Third, with respect to programme planning, my delegation thanks the Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for his presentation on behalf of the Chairman and supports the conclusions and recommendations reached by the CPC at its 27th Session. While we were expecting more specific conclusions and recommendations, we recognize it was the first year of operation for the revitalized CPC, and that the session coincided with the final planning stages for the next programme budget. Also, the Session was effected by the question of