

this agreement on essential goals there can be no proper planning of any duration. The second essential is that the Secretariat will be able to estimate within the context of the long-term plans, at least two years in advance, not only the type of activities it plans to undertake, but at the same time the cost of these activities. It goes without saying that the advance estimates, to be useful, must be as accurate as possible, and be respected by inter-governmental bodies between the time of their final approval and the time of their incorporation into the budget document. In our view it is only in this manner, by looking at programmes and their costs, not consecutively, but concurrently, that the fundamental problem, mentioned by the Secretary-General in his foreword, of reconciling the total work programme with the resources which will be made available for its implementation can be approached with the required measure of intelligence.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes that in implementing this resolution it is essential for the consideration of the planning estimate to proceed on a rational and informed basis. We must avoid the danger of passing judgement on an estimate while lacking the programme information necessary in order to make an intelligent judgement on what we would be getting for our money at different levels of planning estimates. Otherwise, this committee might be faced with the prospect of discussing the planning estimate with views being largely based on preconceived notions of how quickly the budget can be expected to grow rather than being based on what member states expect to receive for their contributions. However, my delegation believes that if the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the programme and budgetary review bodies, implements in a broad