

Many other measures affecting the budget are at the proposal stage or still under review. Therefore their final budgetary impact will not be known for some time. My delegation is looking forward with particular interest to the results of the vacancy management and staff redeployment schemes. We look forward, above all, to a more meaningful review of the programme budget after revised estimates are submitted in 1988.

With respect to the financial aspects of the budget my delegation wishes to thank the Chairman and members of ACABQ for their usual thorough and professional technical analysis and their valuable recommendations with respect to the budget and also to the other related issues. We concur with the ACABQ recommendations for reductions in the provision of consultants and official travel, reductions in unobligated balance of appropriations and balance of unliquidated obligations, and reductions in certain other expenditures. However, we must reserve our position on the ACABQ recommendation to increase turnover rate by a further 2.5 percent for both Professional and General Service categories.

The financial solvency of the United Nations during 1986 and 1987 was preserved by making substantial "short-term" savings and economies. These savings were large in proportion to the budget, \$83 million in 1986. Some fat was trimmed, of that we have no doubt, but because the majority of economies came from the recruitment freeze and other staff related measures, a number of distortions were introduced. My delegation feels very uncomfortable with the prospect of extending further into the future distortions related to a) pay and service conditions, b) age and grade composition of staff, c) geographic location of vacancies, and d) geographic distribution of Secretariat staff. We are therefore prepared to endorse the ACABQ proposed savings of \$31.7 million which would result from increasing the rate of staff turnover only if the Secretary-General can assure us that this would not reduce his ability to deliver the mandated programmes nor reduce his flexibility and effectiveness in hiring and retaining the top quality career personnel that the U.N. and its Members States need and deserve.

With respect to the programmatic aspects of the budget proposal, my delegation believes that the Secretary-General has correctly interpreted the concerns of Member States in focussing priorities for the biennium on two subjects: the advancement of women and African economic recovery and development. It goes without saying that all delegations will rally around Africa as a priority but my delegation believes