

United Nations adopting a biennial budget. A useful by-product of biennial budgeting which also interests us is that it might prove to be a way of improving the relationship between the ACABQ and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. At the 43rd session of the Economic and Social Council my country co-sponsored a resolution (E/RES/1275) which, inter alia, expressed the hope that the timetable of meetings of the CPC and ACABQ might be arranged in such a way that the ACABQ would be able in future years to be represented at all meetings of the CPC on the work programme and to take into account the report or reports of the CPC prepared in the light of the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the forthcoming year. At the moment, it is proposed that next year the CPC should meet in April at which time it would analyze and assess the United Nations programmes and establish priorities for these programmes for the following budgetary period. The ACABQ as indicated in paragraph 82 of A/6707 proposes next year to meet at the end of the first week of June to begin consideration of the budget estimates for 1969. It will, therefore, be able to have the views of the CPC on the work programme before it when it examines the budget estimates. This arrangement marks an improvement over the current year when regrettably it was not possible for the ACABQ during its review of the Secretary-General's budget proposals for 1968 to take into account the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of the United Nations work programme in the economic, social and human rights fields. However, since the Secretariat apparently cannot present the budgetary implications of the work programme for the following year to the CPC in time for its April meeting, the ACABQ has suggested in paragraph 82 of A/6707 that the CPC should review the work programme for the coming year within the budgetary framework of the approved appropriations for the current year. My delegation believes, however, that the CPC to be fully effective should use the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the following year in its review of the United Nations work programme. The adoption of biennial budgeting by the United Nations would probably make this possible, since it would then be easier to supply budgetary information for the following year to the CPC in time for its spring meeting. Alternatively, of course, the problem could be resolved by the introduction of programme budgeting based on an agreed long-term plan. In the absence of either of these developments, progress might be made on this problem by the Secretariat producing, as the Secretary-General suggests in paragraph 13 of his foreword to the Budget Estimates, one set of budgetary and programme data to serve the ACC, CPC and ACABQ, since this would be of great assistance in speeding up the whole presentation of budgetary information.