



Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

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Background

- A subsidiary organ of the General Assembly (Fifth Committee).
- Established on 13 February 1946 by General Assembly Resolution 14 (I).
- Subject to rules 155 to 157 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

Mandate and functions

- Key functions are to:
 - ✓ to examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;
 - ✓ to advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it;
 - ✓ to examine on behalf of the General Assembly the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies; and
 - ✓ to consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

Membership

- Comprised of twenty-one Members*
- Elected by the General Assembly for a period of three years.
- On the basis of a broad geographical representation.
- No two members from the same Member State.
- Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.
- Members retire by rotation and are eligible for reappointment.

* including a Chairman and three vice-Chairpersons.

Election

- “The General Assembly elects the members of the Advisory Committee at the regular session immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the member or, in the case of vacancies, at the next session.”
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman(s) are elected by the Members of the Advisory Committee.

Expansion

- 1946: 9 Members - GA resolution 14 (I)
- 1961: 12 Members - GA resolution 1659(XVI)
- 1971: 13 Members -GA resolution 2798 (XXVI)
- 1977: 16 Members - GA resolution 32/103
- 2020: 21 Members -GA resolution 74/267

Representation

- Under resolution 74/267:
 - African Group: 5 (+2)
 - Asia and Pacific Group: 5 (+1)
 - Eastern Europe Group: 3 (+1)
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: 4 (+1)
 - Western Europe and Others: 4

Secretariat

- The Advisory Committee is serviced by a secretariat headed by an Executive Secretary, assisted by a Deputy.
- The Secretariat role includes:
 - Formulation and implementation of the substantive work programme.
 - Preparing draft reports of the ACABQ as well as co-coordinating with all stakeholders.
 - Examination and analysis of materials on administrative and budgetary questions, and programmatic and substantive review of all reports presented.

Meetings

- Three sessions each year: a fall session, a winter session and a spring session (43 weeks).
- Three types of meetings are held: hearings, executive and drafting.
- Administrative meetings to discuss internal working methods and house-keeping issues.

Process

- ACABQ consideration of a report of the Secretary-General begins with one (or more) hearings.
- Hearings begin with the introduction of the report by the Secretary-General or one of his representatives, followed by a Q&A session.
- Answers can be provided verbally or in writing.
- On receipt of responses, the ACABQ meets in an "executive meeting" to deliberate in advance of the drafting of the report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the GA.
- Decision-making by the ACABQ on its reports is based on a subjective standard of the "preponderance of views" as determined by the Chair

Outcome

- The conclusions and recommendations of the ACABQ are reflected in bold text in ACABQ reports.
- The general practice of the Fifth Committee is to consider the conclusions and recommendations as the starting point of its deliberations.
- The ACABQ responds to all queries raised by the Fifth Committee seeking clarification on its conclusions and recommendations.

Questions