Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/648)]


The General Assembly,


Having considered the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2010,¹

Reaffirming its commitment to a single, unified United Nations common system as the cornerstone for the regulation and coordination of the conditions of service of the common system,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the work of the International Civil Service Commission;

2. Takes note of the report of the Commission for 2010;¹

3. Encourages the Commission to continue to coordinate and regulate the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind the limitations imposed by Member States on their national civil services;

4. Reaffirms the role of the General Assembly in approving conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system, bearing in mind articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission;²

² Resolution 3357 (XXIX), annex.
5. *Recalls* articles 10 and 11 of the statute of the Commission, and reafirms the central role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the organizations of the United Nations common system;

A. **Conditions of service applicable to both categories of staff**

1. **Education grant**

   1. *Approves*, with effect from the school year in progress on 1 January 2011, the recommendations of the Commission in paragraph 83 of its report and annex III thereto;

   2. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations common system to harmonize the education grant eligibility criteria with respect to the minimum age, the maximum age and the coverage of post-secondary education, as specified in paragraph 62 *(a)* of the report of the Commission;

2. **Separation payments**

   1. *Endorses* the conclusions of the Commission in paragraph 101 of its report, and invites the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations common system to harmonize their termination indemnity schedules with that of the United Nations, as approved in General Assembly resolution 63/271 of 7 April 2009;

   2. *Decides* to revert, at its seventy-first session, to the issue of the introduction of end-of-service severance pay in the organizations of the United Nations common system for fixed-term staff involuntarily separating upon the expiration of their contract after ten or more years of continuous service;

   3. *Requests* the Commission to promulgate guidelines for the Organization to follow when it terminates a staff member based on the agreement of both sides;

B. **Conditions of service of staff in the Professional and higher categories**

1. **Base/floor salary scale**

   *Recalling* its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service),

   *Approves*, with effect from 1 January 2011, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 120 of its report, the revised base/floor scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories as contained in annex VI to the report;

2. **Evolution of the margin**

   *Recalling* section 1.B of its resolution 51/216 and the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the comparator civil service (the United States federal civil service) employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as “the margin”),
1. **Reaffirms** that the range of 110 to 120 for the margin between the net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and officials in comparable positions in the comparator civil service should continue to apply, on the understanding that the margin would be maintained at a level around the desirable midpoint of 115 over a period of time;

2. **Notes** that the margin between net remuneration of the United Nations staff in grades P-1 to D-2 in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service in Washington, D.C., for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 is estimated at 113.3 and that the average margin level for the past five years (2006–2010) stands at 114.0;

3. **Children’s and secondary dependant’s allowances**

   **Approves**, with effect from 1 January 2011, as recommended by the Commission in paragraph 162 of its report, the revised children’s and secondary dependant’s allowances and the transitional measures relating thereto;

C. **Conditions of service in the field**

   **Harmonization of the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system serving in non-family duty stations**

   1. **Stresses** that the authority delegated by the Secretary-General to the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes should be exercised in full compliance with General Assembly resolutions, the statute of the Commission and the appropriate rules and regulations of the United Nations;

   2. **Requests** the Secretary-General, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, to ensure cooperation and compliance by the executive heads of all organizations to which he has delegated authority on human resources matters, with the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Commission concerning the harmonization of the conditions of service in non-family duty stations, as reflected in the report of the Commission, and to report thereon to the Commission;

   3. **Also requests** the Secretary-General, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, to exert his leadership as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to ensure the system-wide implementation of the recommendations of the Commission concerning the harmonization of the conditions of service in non-family duty stations, as reflected in the report of the Commission;

   4. **Requests** the organizations of the United Nations common system to report annually to the Commission on the implementation of contractual arrangements and conditions of service for all of their staff serving in family and non-family duty stations;

   5. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to invite the executive heads of the agencies, funds and programmes participating in the United Nations common system to report to their respective governing bodies on the compliance of the organizations with the decisions of the General Assembly on the harmonization of the conditions of service;

   6. **Approves** the recommendations of the Commission on the harmonization of the conditions of service of staff of the organizations of the United Nations
common system serving in non-family duty stations, as contained in its annual report for 2010, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* that, six months after the adoption of the present resolution, all new staff who are assigned to non-family duty stations shall be under the non-family hardship element;

8. *Also decides* that the organizations of the United Nations common system shall cover only the travel costs of the rest and recuperation framework, until a further decision of the General Assembly on this issue is taken at its sixty-seventh session;

9. *Further decides* that the additional costs related to the above arrangements for the harmonization of the conditions of service, as related to the United Nations Secretariat, shall be absorbed by the Organization within existing resources, without impacting on the operational costs and without undermining the implementation of mandated programmes and activities, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon in the context of the relevant performance reports;

10. *Requests* the Commission to submit recommendations to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session concerning the United Nations common system harmonized subsistence allowance or lump sum during rest and recuperation;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify offsets that can be used to implement the Commission proposals on a harmonized subsistence allowance or lump sum during the rest and recuperation break in a cost-neutral manner without impacting on operational costs and without undermining the implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

12. *Requests* the Commission, in its annual report, to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of its decisions and recommendations by the organizations of the United Nations common system;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of mobility as a means of developing a more versatile, multi-skilled and experienced international civil service that is capable of fulfilling complex mandates;

14. *Notes with concern* the high vacancy rates in the field and the negative effect that this has on the ability of the organizations of the United Nations common system to carry out their mandates;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the criteria and process followed for designating family and non-family duty stations to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, in the context of human resources management;

16. *Regrets* that the special operations approach has led to significant variations in the compensation package of staff of the organizations of the United Nations common system in non-family duty stations;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 42 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on human resources management, and emphasizes the importance for the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to work closely with the Commission in addressing and mitigating any unintended consequences of the harmonization proposal;

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3 A/65/537.
18. Requests the Commission, in the context of its annual report, to report to 
the General Assembly on the implementation of its decisions regarding the 
harmonization of the conditions of service in non-family duty stations during the 
transition period;

19. Decides that the rest and recuperation framework should be regulated by 
the Commission;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that rest and recuperation 
entitlements are used by staff in a timely and effective manner;

21. Requests the Commission to keep the issue of the United Nations 
common system conditions of service in the field under review;

D. Other matters

Notes that the following measures, among others, could improve the selection 
process and conditions of service for executive heads of the organizations of the 
United Nations common system:

(a) Conducting hearings and/or meetings with candidates running for the post 
of executive head, in order to enhance the transparency and credibility of the selection 
process and make the process more inclusive of all nationalities;

(b) Ensuring that the hearings and/or meetings with the shortlisted candidates 
are conducted by members of the executive boards, advisory committees and/or 
other legislative bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and/or other 
subsidiary organs and entities;

(c) Adopting provisions comprehensively addressing conflicts of interest 
pertaining to, and/or wrongdoing or misconduct allegedly committed by, executive 
heads, if such provisions have not yet been adopted.

73rd plenary meeting
24 December 2010