



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/7/Add.6
3 November 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 91

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Revised estimates under section 19, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

Resources for the work programme at the regional level

Seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/31) on resources for the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at the regional level. In it, he submits revised estimates for 1981 in the amount of \$386,500 under section 19 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 for the conversion to an established post basis of the staff resources currently financed from general temporary assistance comprising eight posts at the Professional level and four at the local level (that is, one P-4, one P-3 and one local-level post each in the Economic Commissions for Africa, Latin America and Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) (A/C.5/35/31, para. 4).
2. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of his report the Secretary-General recapitulates the circumstances leading to the adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session of resolution 34/229 and the related appropriation of \$140,000 for 1980 only under section 19 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee based upon an oral report by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/34/SR.85, paras. 24 and 25). In this report, he stated that the Advisory Committee had been unable to subject the draft resolution to the detailed analysis it required since it would have wished to consider the matter in the context of the human settlements programmes of the regional economic commissions, but had been unable to take up that matter. He further stated that, in order to provide some staffing resources for the regional economic commissions, however, the Committee recommended the provision to each commission of a lump sum of \$35,000, making a total of \$140,000 under section 19 for 1980 alone, and that the Advisory Committee would consider the establishment of the requested posts during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The lump sum recommended would be for hiring staff on a temporary basis, as determined by each regional economic commission.

3. In response to its inquiries regarding the current status of recruitment of the temporary staff for the regional commissions, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that, as at 1 September 1980, none had been appointed, but that the candidates had been selected by the regional commissions in consultation with the Centre. The expected that six of the Professional staff would report for duty during October and the remaining two before the end of December 1980. The four local-level temporary staff would also be appointed (see also A/C.5/35/31, para. 9). In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee believes that part of the appropriation of \$140,000 under section 19 approved for 1980 should be available to meet expenses in 1981.

4. The Secretary-General identifies the staffing resources currently available to the regional commissions for implementing their respective programmes in human settlements (see annex to document A/C.5/35/31). In paragraphs 5 to 7 of his report, he relates the proposed established posts to the approved work programme of the Centre at the global and regional levels. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 8 that their proposed activities are distinct from, but complementary to, the work programmes of the regional commissions and that therefore these activities require resources which are additional to those available to the regional commissions through their own sections of the programme budget. The Advisory Committee is of the view, however, that the information provided by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 5 to 8 of his report and in the annex thereto does not permit a clear identification of the inter-relationship between the functions to be performed by the proposed established posts, the staff currently available to the regional commissions and the Centre's staff. This may be partly due to lack of experience in the implementation of the Centre's work programme at the regional level attributable in the main to the late recruitment of the temporary professional staff.

5. Bearing in mind its observations in paragraph 4 above, the Advisory Committee doubts that, as stated in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report, a proper review could have been undertaken of the staffing required for implementation of the regional component of the work programme of the Centre, both in relation to the subprogrammes to be undertaken, and in relation to the staff resources available to the Commission. In the circumstances, the Committee is not convinced that the time has come to consider the conversion to an established post basis of the staff currently financed from general temporary assistance.

6. Accordingly, and bearing in mind the savings expected in 1980 (see para. 3 above), the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee approve an appropriation of \$330,000 for 1981 (instead of the \$386,500 as requested) under section 19 for the continuation on a temporary assistance basis of the eight Professional and four local-level posts deployed to the regional commissions for implementing the Centre's work programme at the regional level. The Advisory Committee further recommends that these temporary staffing resources be reflected in the staffing tables of the regional commissions with appropriate notation of their deployment from the Centre for Human Settlements. In the light of experience acquired, the question of converting those temporary staffing resources into established posts would be reviewed by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

7. There will also be a need for a consequential appropriation of \$74,500 under section 31 (staff assessment), to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).
