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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II
recommended by the Second Committee (A/35/592/Add.5, para. 16)

Twenty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/74) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution II on the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 16 of its report (A/35/592/Add.5). The draft resolution was adopted by the Second Committee at its 46th meeting, on 20 November 1980. The Secretary-General estimates the financial implications at a total of \$2,784,300, consisting of \$2,114,200 in conference servicing costs (on a full-cost basis) and \$670,100 in non-conference costs.

2. The total estimate of \$2,114,200 for conference servicing costs (on a full-cost basis) comprises:

(a) \$972,800 for holding the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (1-14 September 1981), preceded by a consultative meeting of senior officials (27 and 28 August 1981) pursuant to section II, paragraph 2, of the draft resolution. The assumptions underlying the estimate and a breakdown thereof are given in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement and in table 1 of the annex;

(b) \$187,000 for holding the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (29 June-10 July 1981) pursuant to section II, paragraph 6, of the draft resolution. A breakdown of the estimate is shown in table 2 of the annex to the Secretary-General's statement;

(c) \$954,400 for the reproduction and distribution of country presentations by the least developed countries, the translation of summaries of those documents, and for the organization of four subregional meetings for the review of the country presentations prior to the Conference. Pursuant to section II, paragraph 8, of the draft resolution, the least developed countries would be requested to submit their individual country presentations to the Conference secretariat not later than 1 March 1981. The assumptions on which the costing is based are discussed in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement and the breakdown of the estimate is contained in table 3 of the annex.

3. In paragraph 16 of his statement, the Secretary-General states that the estimate of conference servicing costs will be reviewed in the context of the consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly.

4. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimate of \$954,400 referred to in paragraph 2 (c) above relates to four subregional review meetings between groups of least developed countries and aid donors, and is calculated on the basis of \$238,600 per meeting (table 2 of the annex to A/C.5/35/74). The Advisory Committee inquired into whether the draft resolution called for the costs of the review meetings to be charged to the regular budget. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that, although the review meetings were not United Nations meetings, the convening of the review meetings was one of the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and that those recommendations would be endorsed by the General Assembly should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee.

5. The Advisory Committee notes that in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the note by the Secretariat on the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its second session (A/C.2/35/7), the Preparatory Committee deals with the organization of review meetings but gives no specific indication that their cost should be financed from the United Nations regular budget. In paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/35/74) reference is made to the recommendation by the Preparatory Committee in paragraph 10 of document A/C.2/35/7 that "in organizing the review meetings and in finalizing the documentation for them, it will be necessary to ensure financing, in particular for the reproduction and distribution of documents, translation of summaries of the documents, and organizational expenses connected with the review meetings. It may well be necessary for the General Assembly to consider financing all or part of those costs from the regular budget". On the other hand, the Advisory Committee also notes the statement in the same paragraph of document A/C.2/35/7 that the Preparatory Committee adopted a resolution at its first session inviting "donors and multilateral agencies to provide appropriate institutional and financial support in order to assist the holding of country and/or subregional consultations prior to the United Nations Conference".

6. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee is unable to recommend that the related estimate of \$954,400 be taken into account in the consolidated statement referred to in paragraph 3 above.

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7. The estimate of \$670,100 under section 4 for non-conference costs comprises the following:

	<u>In United States</u> <u>dollars</u>
(a) Continued temporary assistance in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for the preparation of the Conference	57,600
(b) Advisory missions to strenghten preparations for participation in the Conference by least developed countries	307,000
(c) Continued temporary assistance in the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for the preparations of the Conference	177,100
(d) Public information programme	118,400
(e) Group hospitality for pre-conference activities and the Conference	10,000
Total	<u>670,100</u>

8. As regards the continued temporary assistance in the Office of the Director-General, the estimate of \$57,600 would cover the services of one senior officer at the D-1 level, assisted by a secretary for a net period of six work-months (\$39,600), common services costs (\$8,000) and travel (\$10,000) (para. 6).

9. In paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/35/74, the Secretary-General explains the need to continue technical assistance to the least developed countries at a level higher than that envisaged for 1980. The related estimate, \$307,000, includes \$190,000 for an additional 30 work-months of technical advisers/consultants (at an average level of P-5) and \$87,000 for 30 work-months of secretarial services, and \$30,000 for travel and subsistence of staff.

10. The estimate of \$177,100 for continued temporary assistance in the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD would provide for the services of one senior officer at the D-1 level, one Professional officer at the P-4 level and one secretary for 10 months (\$153,100), common services costs (\$10,000) and travel and subsistence of staff (\$14,000) (para. 8).

11. With regard to the public information programme, the estimate of \$118,400 would cover the cost of nine work-months of supplementary staff at the P-3 level (\$29,700) (para. 14), short-term temporary assistance of one technical liaison officer, one sound engineer and eight locally recruited typists (\$22,300) (para. 13), travel and

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subsistence of staff (\$23,400) (para. 13), the adaptation, translation and printing of information materials by the United Nations information centres (\$30,000) (para. 12) and the preparation of newsletters by DPI (\$13,000) (ibid.).

12. Regarding the estimate of \$10,000 for hospitality (para. 7 (e) above), the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the appropriation for the Conference approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session was limited to activities in 1980 and did not include provision for hospitality.

13. The appropriation approved at the thirty-fourth session amounted to \$561,500 under section 4, of which \$491,300 was suballotted to UNCTAD. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that by the end of 1980 the entire amount suballotted to UNCTAD would be spent and that, of the \$70,200 allotted to the Office of the Director-General, \$30,000 would remain unspent. The Advisory Committee understands that the latter savings have been taken into account in determining the amount being requested for continued temporary assistance in the Office of the Director-General for the preparation of the Conference.

14. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request for \$670,100 in 1981 under section 4, in connexion with the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

15. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends to the Fifth Committee that it inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution II recommended by the Second Committee (A/35/592/Add.5, para. 16), an additional appropriation of \$670,100 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. In addition an amount of \$88,900 would be required under section 31 (staff assessment), to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).

16. Furthermore, as indicated in paragraph 6 above, requirements in respect of conference services, estimated at \$1,159,800 on a full-cost basis, would be taken into account in the consolidated statement of total conference servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its thirty-fifth session.
