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UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution III
recommended by the Third Committee (A/35/639, para. 33)

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/35/73 and Corr.1) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution III recommended by the Third Committee (A/35/639, para. 33) on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would have the General Assembly endorse the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade (A/CONF.94/35) 1/ as adopted at the World Conference in July 1980.

2. The Secretary-General estimates the requirements related to the draft resolution at \$427,200, net of staff assessment, as follows:

Regional commissions:

	(US dollars)	
ESCAP (Section 11)	27,300	
ECLA (Section 12)	32,800	
ECA (Section 13)	29,100	
ECWA (Section 14)	<u>26,400</u>	115,600
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (Section 6)		131,200
Department of Public Information (Section 27)		147,500
Office of General Services (Section 28)		
common services costs		<u>32,900</u>
		427,200

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3.

Regional commissions

3. In operative paragraph 9, the General Assembly would request:

"the regional commissions to consider the Programme of Action with a view to formulating appropriate programmes for implementing the recommendations contained therein, including the organization of seminars, symposia and meetings which will contribute towards furthering the integration of women into the development process and the achievement of the objectives of the Decade".

In operative paragraph 10, the Assembly would urge:

"the regional commissions to report in full to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982 on the specific aspects of the situation of women in all the sectors of their development programmes, in order to strengthen and reorient the reporting methods of those commissions so as to reflect more adequately the regional concerns of women, and thereafter to report on the same subject every two years".

4. The Secretary-General, taking into account the existing level of resources devoted to support women's activities in the regional commissions, 2/ indicates in paragraph 4 of his statement that it should be possible to respond adequately to the requirements of the two operative paragraphs referred to above by a temporary strengthening of the secretariats of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). To that end, the Secretary-General proposes that six work months in 1981 at the senior officer level (P-5) be provided for each of the four regional commissions, at a total cost of \$115,600, in temporary assistance funds. A request for temporary assistance funds for 1982 in a total amount of \$127,100 for the same purpose would be included in the proposed programme budget for 1982 (A/C.5/35/73, para. 5). In paragraph 4, the Secretary-General explains that he is requesting temporary assistance funds rather than established posts or temporary posts "so as to avoid prejudicing in any way the careful review now required of existing and proposed regional programmes and associated resources in the field of women".

5. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's request for \$115,600 in 1981 under sections 11 to 14.

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

6. Operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution would have the General Assembly request the Secretary-General:

2/ See A/C.5/35/73 and Corr.1, annex.

(a) To consider appropriate measures to enable the Commission on the Status of Women to discharge the functions assigned to it for the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women:

(b) To take immediate action to strengthen the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat at Vienna.

7. In response to the first request in operative paragraph 13, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 9 that he will submit, at a later date, proposals to enhance the role of the Commission on the Status of Women so as to enable it to discharge the functions assigned to it in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women.

8. The Secretary-General's proposals to strengthen the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs are contained in paragraphs 11 to 24 of his statement. After reviewing the current activities and resources of the Branch for the Advancement of Women in the Centre and the added workload in the areas of research, data collection, analysis and co-ordination, the Secretary-General requests five new established posts: one D-2, one P-5, one P-4 and two General Service.

9. The related costs in 1981 are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$131,200 for salaries and common staff costs and \$26,600 for common services costs (paras. 23 and 24) as follows:

(i) <u>Salaries and common staff costs (DIESA - section 6):</u>	(US dollars)
- One D-2 for the head of the Branch, Vienna (para. 20)	45,200
- One General Service for secretarial support, Vienna (para. 20)	14,100
- One P-4 for a researcher, Vienna (para. 18)	32,500
- One P-5 for a liaison unit, New York (para. 21)	28,300
- One General Service for secretarial support, New York (para. 21)	<u>11,100</u>
Subtotal	<u>131,200</u>
(ii) <u>Common services costs (Office of General Services - section 28):</u>	
- In Vienna	16,600
- In New York	<u>10,000</u>
Subtotal	<u>26,600</u>
Total	<u>157,800</u>

/...

10. In paragraph 11, the Secretary-General states that the Branch currently has 12 established posts in the Professional category and is headed by a Chief at the D-1 level. In paragraph 20, it is stated that given the added responsibilities of the Branch for the Advancement of Women, "the Branch needs to be headed at the D-2 level in order to provide effective assistance to the Assistant Secretary-General of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs". In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that they were not requesting the reclassification of the existing D-1 post to the D-2 level because they felt that two senior posts, one D-2 and one D-1, were needed.

11. The Advisory Committee understands that the grading of the proposed new posts has not been submitted for review by the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services. Furthermore, the Committee has been informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (of which the Branch for the Advancement of Women forms a part) was reviewed by the Administrative Management Service (AMS) in 1979. Upon inquiry the Committee was informed that the AMS report on the Centre had not yet been finalized and that therefore the staffing proposals for the Branch contained in document A/C.5/35/73 and Corr.1 did not reflect the results of the AMS study. The representatives of the Secretary-General also stated that the Department concerned (DIESA) had postponed discussion of the AMS report until early 1981, by which time it would be in a better position to know the extent of the added responsibilities resulting from the World Conference.

12. The Advisory Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure that the AMS report is finalized and considered without delay. Should the review reveal the need for additional posts, their proper grading should be considered by the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services. The question whether the organizational unit concerned should be designated a Division should be reviewed by the Secretary-General's interdepartmental working group on organizational nomenclature.

13. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the question of the staffing resources of the Branch for the Advancement of Women be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, by which time the Advisory Committee expects that the results of the reviews referred to in the preceding paragraph will have been known.

14. In paragraph 21 of his statement, the Secretary-General requests the establishment of two posts (one P-5 3/ and one General Service) for a liaison unit in New York. The Committee is not convinced of the need for such a unit since the necessary co-ordination activities at Headquarters can be undertaken by the parent department, i.e., DIESA. Therefore, the Committee recommends against acceptance of the Secretary-General's request.

3/ The Advisory Committee understands that the grading of the proposed Professional post has not been reviewed by the Classification Section of the Office of Personnel Services.

Public information activities

15. In paragraph 26 of document A/C.5/35/73 and Corr.1, the Secretary-General refers to paragraph 269 of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, in which it is stated that "the present weekly radio programme on women should be continued through the Decade or longer as the need may be, with adequate provision being made to adapt it in different languages and distribute it more extensively".

16. In paragraphs 29 and 30, the Secretary-General estimates the related requirements in 1981 at \$153,800 (\$147,500 under section 27 and \$6,300 under section 28). Of the \$147,500 requested under section 27, \$61,500 relates to the proposed conversion from temporary assistance to temporary posts for a writer/producer at the P-3 level and a production assistant at the G-5 level. The balance of \$86,000 would be allocated to contractual services (\$32,000), acquisition of tapes (\$24,000), distribution costs (\$20,000) and travel (\$10,000). The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

Common services costs

17. In the light of its recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the request for the related common services costs (\$26,600 under section 28 - see para. 9 above) not be approved. The Advisory Committee also recommends that the common services costs related to the temporary posts in the Department of Public Information (\$6,300 - see para. 16 above) be absorbed.

Recapitulation

18. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 13, 14 and 17 above would reduce the Secretary-General's estimates by \$164,100 (\$131,200 under section 6 and \$32,900 under section 28).

19. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee, additional appropriations totalling \$263,100 would be required for 1981 as follows:

		(US dollars)
Section 11.	ESCAP	27,300
Section 12.	ECLA	32,800
Section 13.	ECA	29,100
Section 14.	ECWA	26,400
Section 27.	Department of Public Information	<u>147,500</u>
		263,100

An additional appropriation of \$43,700 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) and the estimate of income under section 1 would have to be increased by the same amount.