



Twenty-first session  
Agenda items 94 and 74

DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1967

Statement of financial implications of the draft resolution  
recommended by the Second Committee (A/C.2/L.893)

Sixteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary  
Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-first session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1085) containing a statement of the financial implications of a draft resolution approved by the Second Committee on 9 November 1966 (A/C.2/L.893).
2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2 to 6 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General is requested, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and other inter-governmental organizations concerned and the Governments of interested Member States, and utilizing, inter alia, such voluntary services as may be offered, to undertake, in addition to the survey requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1112 (XL), a comprehensive survey of activities in marine science and technology undertaken by members of the United Nations family of organizations, various Member States and inter-governmental organizations concerned, as well as universities, scientific and technological institutes and other interested organizations.

3. The Secretary-General is also invited, in the light of such a comprehensive survey, to formulate proposals for ensuring the most effective international arrangements for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in better understanding of the marine environment through marine science and the exploitation and development of marine resources, with due regard to the conservation of fish stocks, and initiating and strengthening marine education and training programmes. To assist him in the preparation of the comprehensive survey and the formulation of the proposals referred to above, the Secretary-General is requested to set up a small group of experts selected, where possible, from the specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations concerned.
4. The Secretary-General indicates that the implementation of this particular decision would give rise to additional expenditures estimated at \$63,200 for 1967 and \$59,900 for 1968. These amounts include provision for the travel, subsistence and fees for eight experts from different regions of the world, to meet at Headquarters twice in 1967 for a total of three weeks, and once in 1968 for one week, at an estimated cost of \$26,200 for 1967 and \$11,100 for 1968. In addition, the Secretary-General advises that he would not be able to absorb the extra workload involved within the existing level of staff resources and that two professional (P-5 and P-3) posts and one general service post would be needed in both years, at an estimated cost of \$37,000 in 1967 and \$48,800 in 1968.
5. Following an examination of the Secretary-General's proposal, the Advisory Committee concluded that there were several imponderable elements involved, such as co-ordination with UNESCO, FAO, WMO and other specialized agencies active in the broad field of the study of the resources of the sea. It would seem to the Committee that the Secretary-General and the group of experts would wish first to survey the activities on marine resources being undertaken by all organizations and determine to what extent such material can be assimilated in the proposed study. Certainly, every effort should be made to avoid overlapping and duplication of effort between the expert group and the specialized agencies. It is therefore doubtful whether the group of experts could usefully meet twice in 1967. The Committee would also expect that most of the experts would be made available by the international organizations, thereby reducing the fees included for those experts. It also appears to the Committee that the initial workload connected with the survey could be undertaken within the present staff resources and that it would
- /

not necessarily require additional staff in 1967. In any event, the estimates must be considered as very provisional until such time as a more definitive programme of work is determined for the expert group.

6. In the light of these observations, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the total estimate of \$63,200 for 1967 is much too high. The larger portion of the estimate, \$37,000, provides for additional staff which, in the opinion of the Committee, has not been justified in the present proposal. Also, the amount included for the travel, subsistence and fees for the eight experts could be reduced considerably. The Committee was not in a position to determine precisely the amount of the residual additional expenditure, but is of the view that such a figure could be absorbed within the initial estimates for 1967 without undue difficulty.

7. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the Fifth Committee should take note of the Secretary-General's statement of the financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee (A/C.2/L.893), and inform the General Assembly that there is no need to increase the amounts under section 3, chapter III, of the initial 1967 estimates as proposed by the Secretary-General.

8. As regards any possible financial implications resulting from the above draft resolution in 1968, the Advisory Committee will, if necessary, return to this subject when it examines the Secretary-General's initial estimates for that year.

-----