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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989*

Foreword

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* The programme budget as approved by the General Assembly will be issued in its entirety as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/42/6/Rev.1).

FOREWORD

The present proposed budget for the biennium 1988-1989 is a budget for transition. While reflecting the programme requirements of the current medium-term plan, it covers a period when changes not foreseen when the medium-term plan was drafted will be made. It is a budget of notable economy anticipating to an extent the reduced resource requirements that will result from the broad reform measures now being introduced in conformity with the General Assembly's decision of last December. A reduction of \$30 million in expenditures is foreseen in comparison with the appropriations for the current biennium - a negative growth of 1.8 per cent. Given the extent of the reforms to be implemented during the next two years, it can reasonably be expected that there will be some further reductions in estimated resource needs. I would note, in this connection, that the budget which I am now submitting will be the first to be formulated and considered to an important extent, if not yet entirely, in accordance with the revised budgetary procedure agreed by the General Assembly.

I must emphasize that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 is based on the assumption that Member States will pay their full assessed contributions in accordance with the Charter. I cannot anticipate at this time that reserves will meanwhile be replenished. If contributions are not paid - for whatever reason - the effect on the operation of the Organization will be immediate and the carefully planned implementation of reform measures disrupted.

Many Member States have assisted the United Nations in maintaining its solvency during the present severe financial crisis through early payment of assessment, through elimination or reduction of arrears and through voluntary contributions. To them, the Organization owes much appreciation. I believe the staff of the Secretariat also merits commendation for loyalty and fortitude in bearing the brunt of economy measures that were necessitated by the severe shortage of funds. The budget for the next biennium provides the basis for sound, economical operation of the Organization as we pursue the changes that will assure the strength and competence needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next decade and the next century. I commend it to the General Assembly for consideration in the framework of present exigencies and future requirements.
