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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights
and dignity of all migrant workers

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.69

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 56th meeting, held on 29 November 1988, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.69 by a vote of 136 to 1, with 2 abstentions. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee in document A/C.3/43/L.83.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.69, the General Assembly would decide that, in order to enable it to complete its task as soon as possible, the open-ended Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families should again hold an inter-sessional meeting of two weeks' duration in New York, immediately after the first regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council.

3. By operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the Working Group should meet during the forty-fourth session of the Assembly, preferably at the beginning of the session, in order to continue the second reading of the draft international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the current legislative mandates

4. The activities referred to would fall under chapter 6, Human rights, programme: Centre for Human Rights, subprogramme 2, Elimination and prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities and vulnerable groups, the objectives and strategy of which are outlined in paragraph 6.27 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 ^{1/} as extended through 1991. ^{2/}

5. Provision for the substantive servicing of the Working Group is made under programme element 2.1, output (xiii) of section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. ^{3/}

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

6. The Working Group would hold 20 meetings during the two weeks immediately following the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1989, and would hold another 20 meetings during the early part of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work

7. No modification would be required to the approved programme of work for the biennium 1988-1989.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

8. If the General Assembly were to decide that the Working Group should hold 20 meetings in New York in the two weeks immediately following the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1989, the conference-servicing requirements would amount to \$320,900 on a full-cost basis, broken down as follows, on the assumption that both the pre-session and post-session documentation would be prepared at Geneva:

	\$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u> (Geneva)	
(60 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	50 000
II. <u>Meeting servicing</u> (New York)	
(20 meetings)	
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	92 100

	\$
III. <u>In-session documentation (New York)</u>	
(100 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	103 300
IV. <u>Post-session documentation (Geneva)</u>	
(60 pages, 2 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	49 500
V. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	26 000
Total	<u>320 900</u>

9. It should be noted that a decision to hold the inter-sessional meetings of the Working Group in New York would constitute an exception to the provision of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, according to which "United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective established headquarters". Since the substantive secretariat of the Working Group is located at Geneva, the established headquarters of the Working Group during its inter-sessional meetings would be Geneva. The conference-servicing requirements for holding the meetings at Geneva would amount to \$295,400 on a full-cost basis, broken down as follows:

	\$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation (Geneva)</u>	
(60 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	50 000
II. <u>Meeting servicing (Geneva)</u>	
(20 meetings)	
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	108 600
III. <u>In-session documentation (Geneva)</u>	
(100 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	83 800
IV. <u>Post-session documentation (Geneva)</u>	
(60 pages, 2 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	49 500
V. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	3 500
Total	<u>295 400</u>

10. On the assumption that the Working Group would hold another 20 meetings in New York during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly and that pre-session documentation only would be processed at Geneva, the conference-servicing requirements, estimated on a full-cost basis, would be \$333,000, broken down as follows:

	\$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u> (Geneva)	
(60 pages, 2 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	50 000
II. <u>Meeting servicing</u> (New York)	
(20 meetings)	
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	92 100
III. <u>In-session documentation</u> (New York)	
(100 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	103 300
IV. <u>Post-session documentation</u> (New York)	
(30 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	61 600
V. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	26 000
Total	333 000

11. In addition, should the inter-sessional meetings of the Working Group be held in New York, travel and subsistence costs for one substantive officer from the Centre for Human Rights to service the meetings would amount to \$3,500. The substantive servicing of the Working Group during the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly would entail subsistence costs only, estimated at \$1,900, since one officer of the Centre for Human Rights would have to travel to New York in any case to provide substantive service to the Third Committee.

F. Potential for absorption

12. The travel and subsistence costs mentioned in paragraph 11 above would be absorbed from within resources already appropriated under section 23 by the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

13. The conference-servicing requirements listed above would amount to \$653,900 if both sessions were to be held in New York, or \$628,400 if the inter-sessional meetings were to be held at Geneva and the sessional meetings in New York. The estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the

conference-servicing requirements could be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services, which would require additional resources for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1989, to be approved by the General Assembly. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the programme budget, 4/ the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings have been estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditure for the period 1982-1986 and included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates. In other words, provision has been made in the programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of the budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the next biennium is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years. On that basis it is estimated that no additional appropriation would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.69.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1) and *ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1).

2/ A/43/6 and Corr.1.

3/ A/42/6 (Sect. 23); see also General Assembly resolution 42/140.

4/ A/42/6 (Sect. 29).
