



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/32/8/Add.29  
18 December 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

Thirty-second session  
Agenda item 100

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Consolidated statement of administrative and financial  
implications in respect of conference servicing costs

Thirtieth 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 consolidated statement of administrative and financial implications relating to conference servicing costs for the biennium 1978-1979 (A/C.5/32/110). In his statement the Secretary-General recapitulates the estimated total full costs of conference servicing included in the statements of administrative and financial implications submitted during the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, and indicates the extent to which the conference services can be provided from within existing resources and the net additional requirements to service the conferences and meetings at Headquarters and Geneva.
2. The procedure of submitting a comprehensive "wrap-up" statement towards the close of the session of the General Assembly providing a global costing of the impact of all decisions requiring additional conference services in the following year was first introduced at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly.
3. In annex I to document A/C.5/32/110, the Secretary-General lists 32 statements of financial implications submitted during the thirty-second session of the General Assembly containing conference servicing costs for the next biennium. The total amount involved is \$19,154,050 on a "full costing basis", i.e. on the assumption that no services can be provided from within already approved resources. Of that amount, \$16,331,950 relates to 1978 (\$10,252,050 at Headquarters and \$6,079,900 in Geneva) and \$2,822,100 to 1979 (\$2,591,900 at Headquarters and \$230,200 in Geneva). The Secretary-General estimates that, in 1978, services costing \$12,804,050 (\$7,133,650 at Headquarters and \$5,670,400 in Geneva) can be provided within resources already approved by the Fifth Committee (including both regular staff and temporary assistance resources). The net additional requirements, after

applying a deduction of \$440,800 1/ pro-rated by the Secretary-General on the basis of the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee, are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$3,087,100 (\$2,887,100 2/ at Headquarters and \$200,000 in Geneva).

4. The estimate of \$2,887,100 for Headquarters includes \$2,798,600 for section 23A, \$9,000 for section 21 and \$79,500 for section 22. The first component covers temporary assistance for meetings to be provided by the Department of Conference Services as follows:

	(US dollars)
Interpretation . . . . .	539,900
Translation . . . . .	1,493,800
Typing . . . . .	748,200
Other services . . . . .	16,700
	<hr/>
TOTAL	2,798,600
	<hr/> <hr/>

5. The Advisory Committee examined the above request in the light of standard staffing requirements and workload factors used by the Secretary-General for the servicing of conferences. In the area of translation and revision, the Committee has expressed the view that improved terminology services and other measures should lead to raising the current standard average for translators of 5 pages a day and that the average requirements for translation and revision, combined, should not exceed 1.3 staff days for every 5 pages of documentation instead of the 1.5 days assumed by the Secretary-General. As for typing, the Committee expects to see the ratio of typists to translators decline and the productivity in the typing operations increase following the introduction of technological innovations in the production of the publications and documentation at Headquarters (A/C.5/32/11, A/32/8/Add.12). With respect to the number of work-weeks of meeting services envisaged, the Committee notes that the Secretary-General's estimates do not take into account the possible cancellation of meetings, to which the Advisory Committee referred in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979. 3/

6. In addition to the foregoing, the Advisory Committee notes from the Secretary-General's report on budget and programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1976-1977 (A/C.5/32/80 and A/C.5/32/80/Add.1, paras. 23.1, 23.2 and 23.4) that expenditures on salaries and common staff costs and temporary assistance for meetings in the Department of Conference Services was

---

1/ See annex I and foot-notes of document A/C.5/32/110.

2/ The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that this amount should be reduced by \$51,100 to \$2,836,000 to reflect a reduction in the net additional request for the World Disarmament Conference (A/C.5/32/68).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/32/8), para. 23.6.

\$1.31 million less than had been appropriated. The Advisory Committee is of the view therefore that it would be within the Secretary-General's reach to absorb an additional amount of \$747,500 <sup>4/</sup> within the resources which the Fifth Committee has already recommended to the General Assembly for the Department of Conference Services, Headquarters, for 1978-1979. Accordingly, the Committee recommends an additional appropriation of \$2 million under section 23A.

7. As for the related additional resources requested by the Secretary-General for the Office of Public Information (\$9,000) and for the Office of General Services (\$79,500), the Advisory Committee recommends that they be absorbed.

8. In paragraphs 13 and 14 of document A/C.5/32/110, the Secretary-General indicates the need to supplement temporary assistance funds for meetings in Geneva in 1978 (\$3,388,200) by \$200,000 under section 23B. In its consideration of this request, the Advisory Committee bore in mind that in 1976-1977 temporary assistance requirements for conference services at Geneva were \$1.34 million less than the appropriations for the biennium (A/C.5/32/80/Add.1, paras. 23.12 and 23.13). The Committee was also informed that consideration was being given to assigning one team of interpreters (12 interpreters) from Headquarters to Geneva for the first four months of 1978, thereby reducing the need for the United Nations Office at Geneva to engage free-lance interpreters. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the additional resources requested for the Conferences Services, Geneva, not be granted.

9. For the reasons indicated in this report, the Advisory Committee recommends an additional appropriation of \$2 million under section 23A.

-----

---

<sup>4/</sup> Adjusted on the basis of the correction referred to in foot-note 2 above.