



Fourteenth session
Agenda item 24

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON
THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION FOR 1959

Statement of financial implications
submitted by the Secretary-General

1. An indication of the types of new costs associated with the proposals contained in the Scientific Committee's report was given in annex II of document A/4119. The present statement supplements the information given therein.

Studies of exposed groups of populations^{1/}

2. Work on these studies has been begun by the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the International Commission on Radiological Units and Measurements. Inasmuch as the studies will not be completed until the middle of 1960 and reimbursement to the two organizations is not required until that time, the amount (\$10,000) earmarked for this purpose within the 1959 global appropriation under section 1 has been surrendered. The same amount would now be requested in supplementation of the consultancy funds under section 6 of the initial budget estimates for 1960.

Adaptation and use of national vital and health statistics for genetic purposes^{2/}

3. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Scientific Committee, the Secretary-General has invited the World Health Organization (WHO) to co-sponsor the proposed seminar. In accepting the Secretary-General's invitation, WHO has offered to share in the costs of the seminar by paying at least \$9,200 of the expenses.

^{1/} A/4119, annex II, para. 4.

^{2/} Ibid., para. 5.

4. The proposed plan for the seminar as developed jointly by the Secretariat of the United Nations and the secretariat of WHO would call for the convening, immediately before the summer session of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva, of an international expert workshop of approximately five days' duration. The purpose of the workshop would be to explore fully the possibilities of a systematic linkage and application to certain genetic and other radiation problems of information already widely recorded for large populations (e.g., civil registration and health records), together with other relevant records, such as those of radiation exposures or particular conditions and traits. It is believed that funds should be provided to assure the participation of approximately twenty-five experts from ten to twelve countries to present or discuss papers. Other participants, perhaps resulting in a total attendance of some 100 persons, would consist of experts nominated by Governments or other individuals whose travel and subsistence expenses would not be a charge to the United Nations budget. It is not proposed to pay fees or honoraria for the submission of papers, but proceedings of the seminar, consisting primarily of the scientific papers submitted and records of discussion, would be published.

5. On the basis just outlined, the additional requirements of the United Nations budget would come to a total of \$29,800, in respect of which miscellaneous income would be received from WHO in the amount of at least \$9,200. Details of the cost items for which provision would have to be made in the 1960 appropriations are shown below.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u> \$
Travel and subsistence of twenty-five participating experts at \$800 each: (average travel cost of \$725 and subsistence for six days)	20,000
Travel of United Nations staff (secretary of the seminar, secretary of the Scientific Committee, three substantive officers from the Statistical Office and the Population Branch of whom two would serve as expert participants)	5,000
Contractual printing	4,500
Miscellaneous supplies and services	300
Total	<u>29,800</u>

6. Excluded from the above enumeration is an anticipated cost of \$2,700 for additional temporary assistance, language staff at Geneva which it is believed can be met without increase in the appropriations as now foreseen. The language services in this particular case would be limited to minimal ad hoc interpretation into English and French, and possible summary records for the opening and closing plenary meetings.

Pattern of meetings of the Committee^{3/}

7. For the reasons shown in its report, the Scientific Committee has recommended that its normal pattern of meetings be similar to that in past years, with certain adjustments. Specifically, it proposes that it meet from time to time at Geneva and also that it meet in other places following an invitation from a Government or a United Nations agency, made in accordance with the principles of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII) of 13 December 1957. As to the pattern of meetings for 1960, it is the proposal of the Committee that one of its sessions be held at Geneva or such other place as may be approved in accordance with the principles of resolution 1202 (XII).

8. If the Scientific Committee's conclusion concerning the pattern of meetings normally desirable for it is approved, the Secretary-General will continue to make budgetary provision for two meetings of the Committee each year. Bearing in mind the Committee's conclusion that it would be very desirable, from time to time, for its meetings to be held elsewhere than in New York, the Secretary-General anticipates that specific proposals to that end would, from time to time, be formulated by the Committee in consultation with him. Any such proposal would then be taken into account by the Secretary-General in preparing his initial budget estimates for the year in question, or, if time did not so permit, by seeking the concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The budgetary effect of this adjustment of pattern, in any year in which it might be reflected by the Committee holding one of its sessions in Geneva instead of New York, would be to reduce the requirement for travel of representatives by approximately \$3,800 and to increase the requirement for

^{3/} Ibid., para. 14.

travel of staff, inasmuch as it would be necessary to provide for the overseas round-trip travel of the Committee secretary and other staff scientists at a variable amount not exceeding approximately \$8,000.

9. So far as 1960 is concerned, the Secretary-General has scheduled the first session of the Scientific Committee for January at Headquarters. He would expect the place of the second session to be determined during that meeting and would propose in the meantime that the 1960 budget provision be revised to allow for the holding of the second session at Geneva (September 1960). It would be his understanding, however, that an alternative decision during the Committee's first session to accept an invitation from a Government or a United Nations agency would be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII). In such event, therefore, the Secretary-General would submit a statement of the financial arrangements and expenditures involved to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for concurrence at an early date in 1960.

10. The budgetary revisions involved for 1960 are as shown below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Initial estimate (New York)</u> \$	<u>Revised estimate (Geneva)</u> \$
Travel and subsistence of representatives (two-week session, fifteen members) (section 1)	20,200	16,400
Travel and subsistence of Headquarters staff (Committee secretary, five staff scientists, two general service staff) (section 8)	--	8,600
Temporary language staff at Geneva (local recruits or continued subsistence for Headquarters staff retained at Geneva) (section 6) . .	--	1,000
	<u>20,200</u>	<u>26,000</u>

In view of the special staffing arrangements for other meetings which may take place in 1960, it is possible that the expenditure of \$1,000 for temporary language staff can in fact be absorbed, so that the actual increase in budgetary provisions required would be \$4,800.

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Recapitulation

11. The 1960 budget estimates contain provision for the continuation of the Scientific Committee secretariat and the holding of two sessions of the Committee at Headquarters. The 1959 global provision of \$23,000 for special activities has not been carried into 1960, except for the inclusion under section 12 of \$1,000 for purchase of library materials. Hence, implementation of the proposals just described would necessitate revisions in the 1960 budget estimates as follows:

	<u>New provision</u>
	\$
<u>Section 1</u>	
Travel and subsistence of members (reduction in cost of Committee's second session at Geneva)	(3,800)
United Nations-WHO seminar	29,800
<u>Section 6</u>	
Temporary assistance (consultant payment for studies of exposed groups of populations: deferred from 1959). .	10,000
<u>Section 8</u>	
Travel of staff to meetings (for Committee's second session at Geneva)	<u>8,600</u>
Total	<u>44,600</u>

The estimate of miscellaneous income would also be revised to take account of a sum of at least \$9,200 to be received from WHO toward expenses of the United Nations-WHO seminar.
