



Sixteenth session  
Agenda item 54

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1962

Revised estimates for sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 11 resulting  
from decisions of the Economic and Social Council

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary  
Questions to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session

General observations

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/874), containing revisions of the initial estimates for 1962 under a number of budget sections as a result of the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions in April and July 1961, respectively.
2. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that if the new work programmes requested by the Council were to be fully and immediately implemented, additional requirements would have been in the amount of some \$840,000. The report recalls that in the preparation of the initial estimates for 1962 a special and conscious effort was made to hold the expenditure level to that of the 1961 approved budget; consistent with the same policy, it is stated that the Secretary-General reviewed the new programmes called for by the Council in order to limit the revisions in the initial estimates to those which in his judgement were inescapable or which could not be deferred to a subsequent year. Accordingly, the request for additional funds for 1962 has been restricted to \$491,250. Under estimates of income from staff assessment, an increase of \$40,000 is anticipated.
3. The Advisory Committee commends the measures that have been taken by the Secretary-General to reduce requirements in 1962 in the present context. At a

time, particularly, when the financial position of the Organization and the steady rise in the level of its budget are matters for increasing concern, a similar awareness of the need to keep new demands within manageable proportions is also to be encouraged on the part of the various United Nations organs when they take decisions with financial implications.

4. To this effect, the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 1096 (XI) of 27 February 1957 and 1449 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 may be recalled to advantage. Both resolutions underlined the desirability of restricting to a minimum additions to a total programme of work which has already been formulated for a given year and reflected in the main budget estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. In terms of resolution 1096 (XI), it was decided that revised estimates should be limited to:

"(a) Those for which approval is required as a matter of urgency in the interests of peace and security;

"(b) Those in respect of projects which the Secretary-General certifies to be of the highest urgency and which could not have been foreseen at the time the main budget estimates were circulated;

"(c) Those in respect of decisions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council or the Trusteeship Council, provided that such requests are circulated to the Governments of Member States not later than twenty-one days before the opening date of the General Assembly session;

"(d) Those in respect of decisions adopted by the General Assembly, either without reference to a Main Committee or on the recommendation of such a Committee."

Resolution 1449 (XIV) requested all organs of the United Nations to consider ways and means whereby new projects might be deferred until suitable provision for them can be made by the Secretary-General in the main budget estimates for a subsequent financial year, unless they are of major and urgent importance or unless they can be accommodated within approved expenditure levels by the postponement of projects of relatively low priority.

5. The present report of the Secretary-General indicates that in the course of the formulation of the decisions reflected in this report, both at the Committee or Commission level, as well as in the Council, the financial implications of such

decisions were, in accordance with rule 34 of the rules of procedure of the Council, placed before the appropriate organ. The attention of the Council was also drawn to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1449 (XIV). It appears, however, that the Council gave no indication in so far as its programme of work for 1962 is concerned, of any items that might be so deferred.

6. The Advisory Committee has paid special heed to the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 2 of his report, to the effect that the restrictive approach adopted in respect of the revised estimates at present under consideration presupposed that the staffing provisions for economic and social activities made in the initial budget estimates for 1962<sup>1/</sup> would be approved in their entirety.

7. For the guidance of the General Assembly in this matter, the Advisory Committee would recall that in its report on the initial 1962 estimates<sup>2/</sup> it recommended a reduction of \$466,400 under section 3 and \$150,000 under section 4. The proposed reductions under section 3 were broken down as follows:

		\$
Chapter I	Established posts . . . . .	225,000
" II	Provisional posts . . . . . )	200,000
" V	Consultants and experts . . . . . )	
" IV	Other temporary assistance . . . . .	25,000
" VI	Office of the Executive Agent: Lower Mekong River Basin Development Project . . . . .	1,400

Of the reduction proposed for section 4, some \$50,000 was considered consequential to the reduction recommended under section 3.

8. The revised estimates would add \$303,000 to the initial estimate of \$37,309,400 under section 3 - Salaries and wages, and \$60,900 to the initial estimate of \$8,772,300 under section 4 - Common staff costs. The proposed addition of \$303,000 under section 3 consists of the following:

		\$
Chapter II -	Provisional posts . . . . .	201,400
Chapter IV -	Other temporary assistance . . . . .	44,600
Chapter V -	Consultants and experts . . . . .	57,000

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/4770).

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/4814), paras. 165 and 175.

The basic element involved, therefore, is the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in the amount of \$200,000 under chapters II and V taken together. It should be noted in this regard that, of the total of fifty-three new provisional professional posts and the forty-one new provisional general service and local level posts originally requested under chapter II, thirty-six professional and fifteen general service and local level posts related to economic and social affairs. The requirements under chapter V for consultants and experts arose almost entirely in the economic and social field.

9. In recommending a reduction of \$200,000 to the combined credit of \$1,144,000 requested under chapters II and V, the Advisory Committee stated its belief "that the most urgent of the tasks involved, notably in the economic and social field, might be met within a credit below that requested, particularly if full use of the establishment provided under chapter I is directed to priority work".<sup>3/</sup> As pointed out in paragraph 6 of the present report, the Advisory Committee has not overlooked the fact that the revised estimates now submitted were calculated on the basis of the initial estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. The Committee would observe, nevertheless, that its motivation in recommending a reduction, as stated above, continues to be valid.

#### Observations on the revised estimates in detail

10. The following is a summary of the additional requirements distributed by budget section:

##### A. Expenditure Estimates

<u>Section</u>	<u>Amount</u> \$	<u>Purpose</u>
<u>Section 1</u>		
Chapter III: The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees	44,200	Annual session of Social Commission (\$19,000); Increase in membership of functional commission (\$25,200).

<sup>3/</sup> Ibid., para. 146.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Amount</u> \$	<u>Purpose</u>
<u>Section 3</u>		
Chapter II: Provisional posts	201,400	Industrial development (\$41,300); social development (\$43,300); ECE (\$5,100); ECAFE (\$45,000); ECLA (\$60,300); World Population Conference secretariat (\$6,400).
Chapter IV: Other temporary assistance	44,600	Translation costs for industrialization questionnaire (\$30,000), demographic publications (\$12,800) and Human Rights Yearbook (\$1,800).
Chapter V(A): Individual experts and consultants	22,000	Population studies (\$2,000); ECLA (\$20,000).
Chapter V(B): <u>Ad hoc</u> expert groups	35,000	Travel and tourism (\$10,000); Industrial development (\$4,000); ECAFE (\$21,000 for an expert group on regional co-operation with emphasis on international trade and development).
<u>Section 4</u>		
Common staff costs	60,900	
<u>Section 5</u>		
Chapter II: Travel of staff on official business other than travel to meetings	26,000	Social development studies (\$9,500); ECAFE (\$4,000); ECLA (\$12,500).
<u>Section 8</u>		
Chapter VI: Other equipment	8,500	Narcotics Laboratory permanent equipment.
<u>Section 11</u>		
Chapter I: Official records	1,500	Report of Social Commission session.
Chapter II: Recurrent publications	2,250	ECE Steel Statistics (\$1,200); Human Rights Yearbook (\$1,050).
Chapter III: Studies and reports	44,900	Industrialization questionnaire (\$25,000); Population studies (\$19,900).
	\$491,250	
TOTAL		

B. Estimates of Income

Staff Assessment (increase) \$40,000

11. Of the total of \$491,250 requested, \$151,200 relates to non-recurring items which will give rise to costs only in 1962, as specified in paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/874). Items of a continuing nature, for which there are requirements beyond 1962, are estimated to cost \$340,050 in that year. The details are given in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Secretary-General's report. In the latter regard, it is noted that a number of the 1962 requirements, notably the provisional posts involved, have been calculated for only part of the year, to allow for normal delays in implementation. The full annual cost of the continuing items is provisionally estimated at some \$450,000.

12. The Advisory Committee has taken note of the fact that, with the exception of certain requirements for the Economic Commission for Latin America, the present report of the Secretary-General does not deal specifically with Economic and Social Council resolution 823 (XXXII) on decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions. In terms of the latter resolution, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session on the administrative and organizational measures and changes that have been put into effect, and are required to be put into effect, to advance the process of decentralization, which has been agreed to in principle in General Assembly resolution 1518 (XV). Such budgetary implications as will be involved for future years will be set out in that report when it becomes available. This matter has been the subject of preliminary comment by the Advisory Committee in its report on the review and activities of the Secretariat (A/4901, paras. 35 and 36). The Committee has, however, deferred its detailed comments pending receipt of the above-mentioned report.

13. The present report of the Secretary-General also leaves out of account the financial implications of the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of Less-Developed Areas which is to be convened in 1962 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 834 (XXXII). The requirements involved (\$2,404,900, of which \$185,000

is estimated to fall in 1961, \$1,761,900 in 1962 and \$458,000 in 1963) are dealt with in document A/C.5/878 and will be the subject of a separate report by the Advisory Committee.

14. As to the detailed aspects of the present revised estimates, the Advisory Committee would restrict its observations to two items.

15. With reference, in the first instance, to the costs which will arise in connexion with the Conference on Travel and Tourism in 1963 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 813 (XXXI), the Advisory Committee feels bound to draw attention to its observation, in paragraph 55 of its report on the review of the activities and organization of the Secretariat (A/4901), to the effect that "whenever proposals for special conferences arise, it should be carefully considered in each case whether it is either necessary or appropriate for the particular conference to be financed by the United Nations".

16. In the second instance, the Advisory Committee notes with regret that, in terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 830 J (XXXII), the Social Commission will henceforth hold annual meetings. The Committee of Experts, appointed in terms of General Assembly resolution 1446 (XIV) of 5 December 1959 in connexion with the recent review of the activities and organization of the Secretariat, had occasion to note (A/4776, para. 175) that there is a tendency for various subsidiary organs to demand a too frequent scheduling of meetings and that the programme of work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council should be reviewed by that Council with particular reference to the frequency of meetings. In its related report (A/4901, para. 70), the Advisory Committee expressed full agreement with these comments, particularly the proposal that the Economic and Social Council should itself review the question of periodicity of meetings of its functional commissions. The Advisory Committee adheres to this view; in fact, it had drawn attention to this matter on a number of previous occasions and had stated<sup>4/</sup> that there would be advantage in extending the biennial pattern of sessions to those functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council which do not now follow that

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<sup>4/</sup> Ibid., Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/4408), para. 44.

pattern. On the present occasion, the Committee would add that in all cases where annual meetings are demanded, serious attention should be given to an alternative arrangement whereby the full commission would be convened every other year and only a sub-committee or working party would meet in intervening years to conduct preparatory studies on specific problems. The Committee feels that, apart from budgetary considerations, such an approach may yield greater practical results as far as the work of the subsidiary organs themselves is concerned.

Recommendation of the Advisory Committee

17. Subject to the comments and reservations contained in the foregoing paragraphs, the Advisory Committee recommends that a total additional provision of \$491,250 be included in the 1962 appropriations, as submitted by the Secretary-General in respect of sections 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 11. The Committee also concurs in the increase of \$40,000 under income from staff assessment.

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