



Twentieth session

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1966*

Revised estimates for sections 1, 3 and 5 resulting
from decisions of the Economic and Social Council
at its thirty-ninth session

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1027), containing his proposals for revisions to the initial budget estimates for 1966 for the implementation of decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-ninth session, held in Geneva from 30 June to 31 July 1965.
2. In paragraph 2 of his report the Secretary-General also refers to decisions of the Council involving costs which will not arise until 1967, and which will therefore be taken into consideration in the preparation of the budget estimates for that year. While the Advisory Committee has no specific comment to make on those items at this time, it expects to revert to these proposals in its consideration of the Secretary-General's revised document on the suggested pattern of conferences to be submitted to the General Assembly at its twentieth session.
3. As regards the revised additional requirements for 1966 listed under paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/1027, the Secretary-General indicates that it is his intention to meet certain of those expenses from within the total credits already requested in his initial budget estimates for 1966, as follows:

* Item 78 of the provisional agenda.

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(a)	Additional annual seminar on the civic and political education of women (Economic and Social Council resolutions 1062 (XXXIX) and 1067 (XXXIX))	65,000
(b)	Special study of racial discrimination in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres (Economic and Social Council resolution 1076 (XXXIX)) . .	27,500
(c)	Programme in the development of studies of transport and a survey of research projects on the technical aspects of transportation in developing countries (Economic and Social Council resolution 1082 A (XXXIX))	35,000
(d)	Convening of an <u>ad hoc</u> Group of Experts in development planning (Economic and Social Council resolution 1079 (XXXIX))	<u>14,000</u>
	Total	<u>141,500</u>

4. The Advisory Committee welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to provide these requirements from within the total credits already requested in his initial budget estimates for 1966 and does not doubt that these additional costs can be absorbed. However, it would wish to draw attention to the fact that, apart from the increasing expenditure in temporary assistance requirements and the difficulty of hiring qualified language staff for the servicing of meetings, there are the wider implications of any addition to the over-all conference programme. The Advisory Committee will give further consideration to this matter when considering the Secretary-General's revised proposals on the pattern of conferences.

5. The Secretary-General reports that the item having additional financial implications for 1966 concerns the Council's proposal that the fourteenth session of the Statistical Commission be held in Geneva in October 1966, at an estimated cost of \$33,000 distributed over the following budget sections:

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Section 1. Travel and other expenses of representatives and members of commissions, committees and other subsidiary bodies

Travel of members 21,000

Section 3. Salaries and wages

Temporary conference staff 7,000

Section 5. Travel of staff

Travel and subsistence of four substantive staff from Headquarters 5,000

Total 33,000

6. The Secretary-General states that it had been assumed that the next session of the Statistical Commission would be held in 1967, and therefore no provision was made in the initial budget estimates for 1966. He also indicates that the decision of the Economic and Social Council took into account the cancellation of the Commission's 1964 session, owing to construction work in the conference area at United Nations Headquarters. This cancellation is reported as having had a detrimental effect on the work programme of the Commission.

7. The Advisory Committee is aware of these and other facts enumerated by the Secretary-General and, taking account of these exceptional circumstances, considers that there is some justification for holding the fourteenth session of the Statistical Commission one year earlier than originally scheduled. The Committee would wish, however, to draw attention to the pattern of conferences approved by the General Assembly in resolution 1202 (XII) of 13 December 1957, in which it was decided that not more than one functional commission of the Economic and Social Council may be held each year at Geneva, in addition to the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

8. As regards the estimates submitted under paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/1027, the Advisory Committee, bearing in mind its recommendations^{1/} to the General Assembly at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions concerning travel standards,

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/5807), paras. 59-62; *ibid.*, Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/6007), paras. 140-141.

considers that savings of \$4,500 can be made on the estimate under Section 1 for travel of members of the Statistical Commission. Additionally, having reviewed the provisional conference schedule for Geneva for October 1966, the Committee is of the opinion that it will not be necessary for the Secretary-General to incur expenditure for temporary language and conference servicing staff for the Commission's meetings, and that additional savings of \$7,000 can therefore be effected. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve a total additional estimate of \$21,500 under this heading for 1966.
