

Ninth report

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1990

[Original: English]

[5 December 1990]

A. Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/11, 1990/71 and 1990/75

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/31) on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1990, including Council resolution 1990/72 of 27 July 1990, which requires action by the General Assembly. During its consideration of the above-mentioned report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report that for 1991 the estimated additional requirements arising out of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/11 of 24 May 1990 and Council resolutions 1990/71 and 1990/75 of 27 July 1990 amount to \$656,200, of which \$632,200 relate to activities derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>US dollars</u>
8. Activities on global social development issues	31 000
9. Transnational corporations	361 200
13. Economic Commission for Africa	<u>240 000</u>
Total	<u>632 200</u>

Section 8. Activities on global social development issues

3. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed activities on global social development issues in implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/11 concerning the situation of Palestinian women, and recommends approval of the estimate of \$31,000 under section 8 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

Section 9. Transnational corporations

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that the activities proposed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/71, as described in paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Secretary-General's report, were initiated by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its fifteenth session in April 1989. 1/

5. In the view of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General's report does not clearly indicate how the activities mandated by the Commission on Transnational Corporations relate to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to what extent those activities are in conformity with the guidelines established by the General Assembly in section I, paragraph 10, of its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and enhance the objectives of the preparatory process.

6. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, described in the Secretary-General's report, should be carefully reviewed, taking into account the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, with a view to avoiding possible duplication and making the preparation of the Conference more cost-effective. Accordingly, the Committee recommends an estimate of an additional amount of \$180,000 under section 9 of the programme budget.

Section 13. Economic Commission for Africa

7. The Advisory Committee recalls, as indicated in paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's report, that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/75, requested the Secretary-General to make available to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) the financial resources required to collect up-to-date information on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the related estimate of \$240,000 under section 13 of the programme budget.

Contingency fund

8. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report that no provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to undertake the activities indicated in paragraphs 3 to 7 above and that a consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates of all activities that may be absorbed from resources within the contingency fund will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session (A/C.5/45/73).

9. The Advisory Committee observes that the Secretary-General, in his report (A/C.5/45/31), does not propose as alternatives the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas, the modification of specific programme activities or their deferment until the next biennium in the event that it would not be possible to accommodate from the contingency fund the new activities called for in the above-mentioned Economic and Social Council resolutions. In this

connection, the Committee recalls its observation in paragraph 10 of its second report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991: 2/

"The Committee strongly stresses the need for the Secretariat, when preparing statements of programme budget implications of draft resolutions and decisions, not to abdicate its responsibility to provide, for consideration of intergovernmental bodies concerned, precise indications of alternatives in the event that total additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available within the contingency fund."

10. Subject to its observations and taking into account paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends an estimate of additional requirements in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, totalling \$451,000, attributable to three resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1990. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that, at this stage, the Fifth Committee should take note of the above estimate on the understanding that such additional appropriations as may be necessary will be requested by the Secretary-General in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session in accordance with section C, paragraph 5, of the annex to Assembly resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987 (A/C.5/45/73).

B. Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/72

11. By its resolution 1990/72, the Economic and Social Council called upon the General Assembly, as a matter of urgency, to approve the inclusion of four key posts for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) in the United Nations regular budget in order to enable the Institute to carry out its approved work programme and functions on a continued and sustained basis as stipulated in its statute.

12. The Advisory Committee notes that the Institute, under its statute, is financed by annual contributions from African States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Committee was informed that the budget of the Institute for 1990 is \$1,564,300 and should be financed as follows:

	<u>US dollars</u>
UNDP contribution	735 300
African countries assessed contributions	587 000
ECA trust funds and miscellaneous incomes	<u>242 000</u>
Total	<u>1 564 300</u>

According to information received by the Committee, only UNDP has fully paid its contribution. Income from Member States totals \$356,680, but this must be seen against a cumulative total of 1990 assessments and arrears of contributions (1976-1989) amounting to \$9,853,841. The Committee was further informed that UNDP is reconsidering its institutional support for IDEP and may decide to provide support only to research/consultancies.

13. It is proposed in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/45/31) to include the four posts of Director of the Institute (D-1), Chief of Administration and Finance (P-5) and two senior lecturers (each at the P-4 level) in the regular budget. This would result in additional requirements for 1991 of \$392,200 under section 13 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Committee notes from paragraph 27 of the Secretary-General's report "that no posts can be identified within section 13 of the 1990-1991 programme budget that could be redeployed to the Institute should the General Assembly decide to include the four posts in the regular budget".

14. The Advisory Committee expresses its concern about the persistent and substantial shortfall of funds to the Institute and its current financial situation. In this connection, the Committee notes that a number of African States are having great difficulties in making their assessed contributions to the Institute during the current critical economic situation in Africa. The Committee notes that the Institute is the only regional institution able to provide training and research services for all States members of the ECA in the area of economic development and planning. Considering the role of the Institute in the training of African planners and development specialists and the continuing and growing needs of African Governments for the services of the Institute in the fields of training, research and advisory services, the Committee believes that there is an urgent need to secure the continued operation of the Institute through institutional support and funding. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly should request the Governing Council of UNDP to urge the Administrator of UNDP to implement fully Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/72, as follows:

(a) To give its full backing to the short-term training programme and the research and advisory activities of the Institute;

(b) To continue its support for the activities of the Institute in 1990 and beyond.

The Committee further recommends that, in the meantime, as an interim measure, a subvention under section 13 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 should be made in the amount of \$392,200 to finance the four posts of the Institute. The General Assembly may also wish to request the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of its request to the Governing Council of UNDP.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 10 (E/1989/28/Rev.1).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8), document A/44/7/Add.1.