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CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA: UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/45/L.20 and A/45/L.21 and Corr.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. REQUEST CONTAINED IN DRAFT RESOLUTION A/45/L.20

1. Under the terms of draft resolution A/45/L.20, the General Assembly would decide to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the purpose of preparing, for the forty-sixth session, the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet for 10 working days in September before the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would further decide that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet at an organizational session for two working days in April 1991.

A. Relationship of the proposed requests to the approved programme of work

3. The convening of the Ad Hoc Committee would fall under the activities described in section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 1/ carried out by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

B. Activities by which the proposed recommendation would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the related conference services would be provided for the Ad Hoc Committee on the following basis:

1. Organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee

5. The Ad Hoc Committee would hold two meetings a day, for two days. Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly. There would be a total of 45 pages (4 documents) of documentation to be issued in the six official languages of the General Assembly.

2. Regular session of the Ad Hoc Committee

6. The Ad Hoc Committee would hold 2 meetings a day, for 10 working days, just prior to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly. There would be a total of 420 pages (11 documents) of documentation to be issued in the six official languages of the General Assembly.

C. Additional requirements at full cost

7. The related conference-servicing requirements have been estimated at \$65,000 for the organizational session and \$526,000 for the regular session. Detailed information is provided in the annex to the present statement.

D. Potential for absorption

8. The above cost estimates are based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 29 of the programme budget for the 1990-1991 biennium 2/ and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1990-1991. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.5 of the programme budget, the 1990-1991 level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings that had been programmed but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in the past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional

resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/45/L.20.

9. At the same time, the holding of the Ad Hoc Committee in September 1991 would necessitate an exception by the General Assembly to paragraph 6 of its resolution 40/243, in which the Assembly reaffirmed its instruction to all its subsidiary organs to complete their reports for the following session of the General Assembly no later than 1 September.

II. REQUESTS CONTAINED IN DRAFT RESOLUTION A/45/L.21 AND Corr.1

10. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/45/L.21 and Corr.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session through the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole on measures for the implementation and the follow up of the report of the Secretary-General's Expert Group on Africa's Commodity Problems, taking fully into account the African common position on the report.

11. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to include in his report a study on the proposal of the feasibility of establishing an African commodity diversification fund in the African Development Bank (AfDB).

12. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to carry out a comprehensive study on the proposal on the likely impact of the recent advances in technology and the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on Africa's commodity sector and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session through the Ad Hoc Committee.

13. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to carry out a comprehensive study on the capacity of the African commodity sector to supply the industrial materials and intermediate factor-inputs required for the programme under the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to submit his report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, within the context of the final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990.

A. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

14. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the draft resolution relate to section 5A (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) and section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the programme budget for 1990-1991.

B. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

15. Section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 includes the preparation of the final report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The request of the General Assembly in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution would require the inclusion in the Secretary-General's report of measures taken in regard to Africa's commodity problems.

16. The request in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution would require a study to be carried out by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

17. The request in operative paragraph 6 would require a study that would be carried out by UNCTAD under programme element 1.4 of the programme "Executive direction and management" of section 15 of the programme budget for 1990-1991.

18. The request in operative paragraph 7 would require a study to be undertaken by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in co-operation with UNIDO.

C. Modifications required in the programme budget for 1990-1991

19. The studies requested in operative paragraphs 5 and 7 will become additional outputs under section 5A of the programme budget for 1990-1991.

D. Additional resource requirements

20. Provisions have been made in section 5A of the programme budget for 1990-1991 to cover the study requested under operative paragraph 4 (implementation and follow up of the Secretary-General's Expert Group on Africa's Commodity Problems) and in section 15 to cover the study requested under operative paragraph 6 (impact of the recent advances in technology and the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on Africa's commodity sector).

21. However, for the studies to be undertaken in response to the requests in operative paragraph 5 (feasibility of establishing an African commodity diversification fund in AfDB) and operative paragraph 7 (capacity of the African commodity sector to supply the industrial materials and intermediate factor-inputs required for the programme under the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa), it is estimated that additional consultancy requirements of \$50,000 would have to be met under section 5A of the programme budget for 1990-1991.

E. Contingency fund

22. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

23. It is not possible to identify resources to be redeployed from low-priority areas or to modify existing activities in order to finance the activities referred to above. In the event, therefore, that resources are not available from the contingency fund, the preparation of the reports mentioned in paragraphs 13 and 15 above would have to be deferred, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., vol. II.

AnnexSUMMARY OF ESTIMATED CONFERENCE-SERVICING COSTS
FOR THE PROPOSED AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

	\$
(a) <u>Organizational session</u>	
(i) <u>Pre-session documentation</u> (25 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	26 600
(ii) <u>Meeting servicing</u> (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	18 500
(iii) <u>In-session documentation</u> (10 pages, 2 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	11 100
(iv) <u>Post-session documentation</u> (8 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	8 800
Total	65 000
(b) <u>Regular session</u>	
(i) <u>Pre-session documentation</u> (250 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	263 300
(ii) <u>Meeting servicing</u> (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	92 200
(iii) <u>In-session documentation</u> (100 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	104 300
(iv) <u>Post-session documentation</u> (64 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	67 000
Total	526 800
