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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/C.2/34/L.87

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

1. Under operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.87 the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to intensify the development and application of the decentralization measures proposed in a number of his reports on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, including those in documents A/34/649, E/1979/81 and A/33/410/Rev.1. Administrative and financial implications arise at this stage in connexion with the proposals embodied in document A/34/649.
2. In reviewing these proposals, the General Assembly may wish to take into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/64 calling for a review by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination of the policy and programme issues relating to the distribution of tasks and responsibilities between the regional commissions and other United Nations units, programmes and organs concerned. This review is referred to in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.87. Should any administrative and financial implications result from this review by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, they will be reported to the General Assembly, for its approval, at its thirty-fifth session.
3. Moreover, the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, will be prepared, in respect of the

regional commissions parallel to, and will reflect the conclusions of, the report requested in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.87.

4. In view of the time constraints under which the Secretary-General has had to prepare these administrative and financial implications, the Secretary-General is submitting herewith a single statement of such implications in the form of a document of the Fifth Committee, which is being made available simultaneously to the Second Committee and the Fifth Committee in compliance with the relevant rules of procedure.

5. In parts one and two of document A/34/649, the Secretary-General has put forward a number of specific proposals for redeployment of activities to the regional commissions. If implemented, these proposals will result in the transfer of resources to the regional commissions. This transfer is analysed below under headings 1 and 2 relating to decentralization of activities and resources from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD).

1. Decentralization of activities and resources from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to the regional commissions

6. Following consultations with the regional commissions concerned, it has been ascertained that the programme activities described in paragraphs 8 to 14, 17 to 22, 25 to 28 and 30 to 32 of document A/34/649 can be implemented by the addition of one post at the P-4 level for each commission. These posts will be obtained through redeployment of existing posts in DIESA made possible by the adjustments in programmes referred to in paragraphs 15-16, 23-24, 29 and 33-34 of that document. The impact on sections 6, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the proposed programme budget for the period 1980-1981 is estimated as follows:

| | 1980-1981 (In thousands of US dollars) | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------|
| <u>Section 6 (DIESA)</u> | | |
| <u>Programme 1</u> | | |
| Established posts (three P-4) a/ | (200.4) | |
| Common staff costs | <u>(64.2)</u> | (264.6) |
| <u>Programme 3</u> | | |
| Established posts (one P-4) a/ | (66.8) | |
| Common staff costs | <u>(21.4)</u> | (88.2) |
| <u>Programme 5</u> | | |
| Established posts (one P-4) a/ | (91.2) | |
| Common staff costs | <u>(28.3)</u> | (119.5) |
| Sub total Section 6 | | (472.3) |
| | | /... |

1980 1981
 (In thousands of US dollars)

Section 10 (ECF), programme 2

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Established posts (one P-4) <u>a/</u> | 97.9 | |
| Common staff costs | <u>25.4</u> | 123.3 |

Section 11 (ESCAP), executive direction and management

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Established posts (one P-4) <u>a/</u> | 60.9 | |
| Common staff costs | <u>25.0</u> | 85.9 |

Section 12 (ECLA), programme 12

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Established posts (one P-4) <u>a/</u> | 74.7 | |
| Common staff costs | <u>30.0</u> | 104.7 |

Section 13 (ECA), programme 9

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Established posts (one P-4) <u>a/</u> | 66.0 | |
| Common staff costs | <u>26.4</u> | 92.4 |

Section 14 (ECWA), programme 2

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Established posts (one P-4) <u>a/</u> | 66.8 | |
| Common staff costs | <u>20.1</u> | 86.9 |

a/ In accordance with usual practice for the transfer of existing posts, these have been calculated with a 5 per cent turn-over deduction.

2. Decentralization of activities and resources from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to the regional commissions

7. As a consequence of the programme proposals set out in paragraphs 40 to 54 of document A/34/649, a transfer of funds within section 24, regular programme of technical co-operation, from DTCD to the regional commissions is proposed to finance one post of a regional adviser at the L-5 level at each commission.

8. It is estimated that the provision earmarked for DTCD under sectoral advisory services could be decreased by a total of \$517,100 in 1980-1981. The fields of activity to be reduced within DTCD will be determined in conjunction with the reorganization of the Department currently being undertaken.

9. Conversely, the 1980-1981 provisions for regional and subregional advisory services would be increased as follows:

| | <u>Resources required for 1980-1981</u> |
|--|---|
| Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) | 121,000 |
| Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) | 142,100 |
| Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) | 127,300 |
| Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) | <u>126,700</u> |
| TOTAL | 517,100 |

10. Contrary to the practice established with regard to ESCAP, ECLA, ECA and ECWA, no funds have ever been earmarked for the provision of regional and subregional advisory services by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) under section 24. Furthermore, the incumbent of the post which it is proposed to establish within ECE would, in addition to advisory work for the benefit of European countries, contribute to global projects in inland transportation as requested by DTCD. For these reasons, it is proposed that the funds required to finance the post (\$169,500) continue to be shown as part of sectoral advisory services, on the understanding that they would be suballotted to ECE.

Summary

11. The above proposals, if implemented, will add to the rate of real growth of the resources of the regional commissions as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Section 10 (ECE) | 0.5 per cent |
| Section 11 (ESCAP) | 0.4 per cent |
| Section 12 (ECLA) | 0.3 per cent |
| Section 13 (ECA) | 0.3 per cent |
| Section 14 (ECWA) | 0.7 per cent |

12. This transfer of resources would reduce the rate of real growth of section 6 (DIESA) by 1.1 per cent.

13. It is recommended that the above proposals be approved with effect from 1 January 1980.

Further proposals of the regional commissions in priority areas

14. Parts three and four of document A/34/49 contain a number of proposals put forward by the regional commission secretariats for a further strengthening of their activities and resources in priority areas. The justifications for these proposals and the related costs, which it is estimated would require additional resources in respect of staff (four P-5, five P-4, two P-3 and three local level posts) and travel for four regional commissions (ESCAP, ECLA, ECA and ECWA), are presented in the annex.

Annex

JUSTIFICATION AND RELATED COSTS OF FURTHER PROPOSALS
OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS IN PRIORITY AREAS

(a) ECA

1. It is estimated that the proposal to strengthen the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of ECA, set out in paragraphs 70 to 83 of document A/34/649, would involve the addition of three economic affairs officers (one P-5, two P-4) to the Economic Co-operation Office in the Cabinet Office of the Executive Secretary. Paragraphs 78 to 80, in particular, present the work to be undertaken by the incumbents of these posts.

2. It is envisaged that each officer would require at least three trips annually between his MULPOC Centre and the Headquarters of ECA, including an additional cost of \$36,000.

(b) ECLA

3. It is estimated that the strengthening of the programme planning and co-ordination function in ECLA, proposed in paragraphs 95 to 98 of A/34/649, would involve the addition of one officer at the P-4 level to the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Office in the Office of the Executive Secretary, which comprises four Professional posts. This addition would allow ECLA to cover more adequately the following tasks:

Strengthening the programme planning and resource allocation function especially linking more closely implementation of activities and corresponding utilization of human and financial resources;

Improving co-ordination with regional organs of the agencies of the United Nations system operating in the region;

Intensifying relations with several regional intergovernmental organizations with political, economic and social activities in the region and its subregions;

Better co-operation with Headquarters in the areas of programme planning, co-ordination, co-operative implementation, and evaluation;

Establishing at an adequate level interregional co-operation with the four sister regions.

4. It is further estimated that the proposal in paragraphs 99 to 102 of document A/34/649, to strengthen the role of ECLA in the promotion of co-operation among developing countries, would require the addition of one post at the P-5 level to the Division of Operations which comprises one D-1, two P-4 and one P-3 posts. This would permit the Division to carry out the functions listed in paragraph 100.

(c) ECWA

5. It is estimated that the proposal in paragraphs 103 to 107 of A/34/649 to permit ECWA to start activities in ocean economics and technology would require the addition of an officer at the P-4 level and one local-level post for a secretary to the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division. Three months of consultant services would further be required to assist in formulating the legal aspects of regional strategies at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Two intraregional trips per year would be needed to consult with Governments and, in addition, one trip to Headquarters would be required to consult with officials in DIESA. At an average cost of \$2,000 per trip the travel requirements are estimated at \$10,000.

6. The proposal in paragraphs 108 to 116 of document A/34/649 to strengthen the work of ECWA on integrated transport planning and low-cost road construction in arid areas could be undertaken with the addition to the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of one Professional at the P-3 level, one local-level staff member, and \$8,000 of travel funds to be distributed equally between the two projects and used for interregional travel.

7. It is estimated that the proposal in paragraphs 117 to 119 of A/34/649 to strengthen the capacity of ECWA for programme planning and co-ordination could be implemented with the addition of an officer at the P-3 level and one local-level staff member to the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Unit in the Office of the Executive Secretary, and the provision of an additional \$4,500 for travel which would permit one additional trip per year to Headquarters (New York) for consultations and participation in ACC subject-oriented meetings.

(d) ESCAP

8. It is estimated that the proposal in paragraphs 120 to 122 of A/34/649 to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP for regional leadership in the field of development issues and policies could be implemented with the addition of an officer at the P-5 level to the Development Planning Division, which comprises 14 Professional posts. The additional post would help ESCAP to formulate an improved substantive basis for it to act as the main general economic and social development centre for the region and to clarify regional issues of global interest as mandated by General Assembly resolution 32/197, annex, part IV, paragraph 19. It would also enable ESCAP to accelerate its efforts for the promotion of co-operation among developing countries, another mandate of the same resolution. The incumbent of the post would be responsible for the preparation of a section on regional co-operation among developing countries of the region in the annual Survey and biennial Review, and the provision of backstopping to, and close liaison with, the Asia and the Pacific Development Centre in relation to over-all economic and social development issues.

9. It is estimated that the proposal in paragraphs 123 to 125 of A/34/649 to strengthen work in social development and humanitarian affairs could be implemented with the addition of an officer at the P-4 level to the Population and Social

Affairs Division. The provision of the post would enable ESCAP to provide technical backstopping to the related work planned at the Asia and the Pacific Development Centre. The additional post would provide ESCAP with an improved substantive basis for its responsibilities to act as the main economic and social development centre in the region as called for in General Assembly resolution 32/197. It would also ensure sufficient attention to social aspects of development issues and an improved regional contribution to the global efforts in this respect, as well as interregional co-operation with other regional commissions.

10. The proposal in paragraph 126 of A/34/649 to strengthen the programme planning and co-ordination function in ESCAP could be implemented with the addition of one senior co-ordinator at the P-5 level to the Office of the Executive Secretary. The functions of the post would be to (a) keep under constant review the mandates given in resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and other relevant global fora as they relate to the work of the regional commissions; (b) prepare contributions to United Nations Headquarters for submission to relevant global fora as they relate to programme co-ordination and planning in economic and social sectors; (c) service the Commission and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives in liaising the Commission's work programme and planning process mechanism and the global exercise in planning process and programme budgeting; and (d) maintain close contact with programme co-ordinators at United Nations Headquarters, other regional commissions and other bodies within the United Nations system for the establishment of desirable complementarity in work programmes and interregional co-operation.

11. Appropriate travel funds are needed to permit ESCAP to participate in meetings of programme planners from Headquarters and the regional commissions as well as to promote interregional co-operation with other regional commissions and to co-ordinate programme activities with other bodies of the United Nations system such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNEP and HABITAT. The minimum travel needed would be two trips per year for consultation with regional and Headquarters programme planners. At \$2,500 per trip this would amount to \$10,000.

Summary

12. The costs enumerated above add up to the following amounts over a period of two years:

Cost
 (In thousands of US dollars)

ESCAP

(a) Executive direction and management

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Established post (one P-5) | 37.3 |
| Common staff costs | 15.4 |
| Travel of staff | <u>10.0</u> |
| | 62.7 |

(b) Development issues and policies

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Established post (one P-5) | 37.3 |
| Common staff costs | <u>15.4</u> |
| | 52.7 |

(c) Social development and humanitarian affairs

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Established post (one P-4) | 32.1 |
| Common staff costs | <u>13.2</u> |
| | 45.3 |

| | | |
|--|----------|-------|
| | Subtotal | 160.7 |
|--|----------|-------|

ECLA

(a) Executive direction and management

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Established post (one P-4) | 39.4 |
| Common staff costs | <u>15.8</u> |
| | 55.2 |

(b) Management of technical co-operation activities

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Established post (one P-5) | 44.8 |
| Common staff costs | <u>17.9</u> |
| | 62.7 |

| | | |
|--|----------|-------|
| | Subtotal | 117.9 |
|--|----------|-------|

Cost
 (In thousands of US dollars)

ECA

Executive direction and management

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| Established posts (one P-5; two P-4) | 109.1 | |
| Common staff costs | 43.7 | |
| Travel of staff | <u>36.0</u> | |
| Subtotal | | 188.8 |

ECWA

(a) Executive direction and management

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------|
| Established post (one P-3, one LL) | 40.5 | |
| Common staff costs | 12.3 | |
| Travel of staff | <u>4.5</u> | |
| | | 57.3 |

(b) Natural resources and energy

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Established posts (one P-4, one LL) | 46.6 | |
| Consultants (three work months) | 15.0 | |
| Common staff costs | 14.1 | |
| Travel of staff | <u>10.0</u> | |
| | | 85.7 |

(c) Transport

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Established post (one P-3, one LL) | 40.5 | |
| Common staff costs | 12.3 | |
| Travel of staff | <u>8.0</u> | |
| | | <u>60.8</u> |

Subtotal 203.8

Total 671.2
