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Forty-sixth session  
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Agenda items 60 (b) and 107

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Transparency in armaments

Programme budget implications of draft resolution

A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1

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

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms, to include international arms transfers, in accordance with procedures and input requirements initially comprising those set out in the annex to the resolution, as well as other interrelated information, particularly as referred to in paragraph 10 of the resolution.
2. By operative paragraph 8, the General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to elaborate, with the assistance of a panel of governmental technical experts to be nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the technical procedures necessary for the effective operation of the Register and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

3. By operative paragraph 11 (b), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, inter alia, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts convened in 1994, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

4. The above request is related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ and section 5, Disarmament, subprogramme 3, Monitoring, analysis and studies, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would establish a panel of governmental technical experts. In order to achieve appropriate geographical balance, the panel would be composed of 18 experts. The panel would hold two sessions in New York in 1992: a one-week session in March-April and a two-week session in July.

6. The Department for Disarmament Affairs would provide appropriate substantive support services to the panel. In addition, it is estimated that five work-months of consultancy services and two work-months of temporary assistance of secretarial support services would be required to assist the panel in its work. The consultant would have extensive knowledge and expertise on defence-related technologies, arms transfer problems and transparency. The consultant would prepare the successive drafts of the panel's report, as well as attend both sessions of the panel.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1992-1993

7. The activities called for by operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 11 (b) of the draft resolution would go beyond the scope of activities programmed under subprogramme 3, activity 3 (ii) "Follow-up of recommendations for further work with respect to the study reports of ad hoc expert groups mandated by the General Assembly, including coordination with other organs/agencies of the United Nations system" of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Therefore it would be necessary to add the following citations under subprogramme 3 of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993:

Under activity 3, Coordination, harmonization and liaison:

"(iv) Establishing and maintaining a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms";

Under activity 1, Parliamentary services:

"(v) Panel of governmental technical experts on international arms transfers (two sessions in 1992)".

The programmatic aspects of the activities called for by operative paragraph 11 (b) of the draft resolution would be considered within the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

8. The requirements to undertake the activities in 1992 described in paragraphs 5 and 6 above are estimated as follows:

\$

(a) Conference-servicing costs

(see annex below for breakdown)

(i) One-week session in New York (March-April) 72 400

(ii) Two-week session in New York (July) 155 100

Total (a) 227 500

(b) Non-conference-servicing costs

(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 18 governmental technical experts at two sessions 164 100

(ii) Five work-months of consultancy services, travel and daily subsistence allowance for two sessions 34 000

(iii) Two work-months of temporary assistance 7 200

Total (b) 205 300

Total (a) and (b) 432 800

9. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, it is anticipated that the Register of Conventional Arms to be established at United Nations Headquarters in New York would become fully operational in 1993. Taking into account the volume of documentation anticipated to be received initially, it is estimated that the cost of related activities during that year could be absorbed by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

10. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 (b) of the draft resolution, since the group of governmental experts would be convened in 1994, related programme budget implications would be considered in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

#### F. Potential for absorption

11. As regards the estimated conference-servicing costs in New York of the two sessions called for in the draft resolution and outlined in paragraph 5 above, these estimates, totalling \$227,500, are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 32 of the proposed programme budget 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 only be determined in the light of the final calendar of conferences for 1992-1993 and was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings which are programmed but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the proposed 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 1992-1993 were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 should draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1 be adopted.

12. No provision has been made under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to undertake the activities enumerated in paragraph 6 above. It is not anticipated that the cost of \$205,300 referred to in paragraph 8 (b) above could be absorbed from within the appropriation under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

#### G. Indication of additional requirements

13. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, it is estimated that additional requirements of \$205,300 would arise under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

#### H. Contingency fund

14. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from the low-priority areas or modifications of existing 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 General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

15. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

#### I. Summary

16. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, it is estimated that additional appropriations of \$205,300 would be required under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

**Annex****ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF TWO SESSIONS IN 1992  
OF THE PANEL OF GOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS**

	First session (New York, <u>one week</u> )	Second session (New York, <u>two weeks</u> )
	\$	\$
<b><u>Meeting servicing</u></b>		
Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S	50 200	99 500
<b><u>Post-session documentation</u></b>		
(70 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	<u>22 200</u>	<u>55 600</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>72 400</u></b>	<b><u>155 100</u></b>