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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.27

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 draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.27, the General Assembly would:

(a) Endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/50, in which, inter alia, the Council invited States, organizations of the United Nations system and other donor agencies to grant Namibia, for a number of years, assistance of a scope comparable to that given to a least developed country, in order to take into account the conditions that exist in Namibia and to assist it, as a newly independent country, to mobilize its economic potential;

(b) Decide to extend special assistance to Namibia equivalent to that given to a least developed country.

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

2. Provision is proposed under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 1/ for travel of representatives of Member States that are least developed countries to sessions of the General Assembly. This activity is not programmed.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, as amended by Assembly resolutions 2245 (XXI) of 20 December 1966 and 2489 (XXIII) and 2491 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968, travel expenses but not subsistence expenses have been paid by the Organization for not more than five representatives, including alternate representatives, of each Member State attending a regular session of the Assembly and for one representative or alternate representative attending a special or emergency special session of the Assembly. Recommendation 6 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, however, provides that reimbursement of travel costs for representatives of Member States attending the Assembly should be limited to the least developed countries. 2/ Subsequently, by resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the Assembly decided that the recommendations, as agreed upon and as contained in the report of the Group, should be implemented.

4. While the reference to "special assistance" in paragraph 1 (b) is subject to interpretation, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that it would involve the addition of travel expenses of representatives to sessions of the General Assembly.

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

5. As noted in section B above, activities in this area are not programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 1/ Consequently, no modification will be required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

6. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it is assumed that Namibia would be entitled to reimbursement of the travel costs of its representatives to the forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly. At current airfares, and assuming a full use of this entitlement, estimated additional costs of \$62,900 would arise during the biennium 1992-1993.

F. Potential for absorption

7. The provision under section 1 of the proposed programme budget relates to travel to sessions of the General Assembly by the 40 Member States that are currently designated as least developed countries, and it is not anticipated that the estimated additional cost of \$62,900 could be absorbed within the proposed appropriation.

G. Indication of additional requirements

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.27, it is estimated that an additional requirement of \$62,900 would arise.

H. Contingency fund

9. 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 for 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, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from 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.

10. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 1 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

11. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.27, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$62,900 would be required under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), para. 21.
