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PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80

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 the operative paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should hold a fifth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 28 February 1992, with the possibility of the Committee holding a short resumed session in New York in April 1992 (operative paragraph 3);

(b) Reiterate its request to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, on behalf of the Committee, to submit a report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 on the outcome of the negotiations, as well as on possible future steps in the field of climate change (operative paragraph 7);

(c) Request the Secretary-General, in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development regarding the framework convention on climate change, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution and on possible future requirements in relation to climate change (operative paragraph 8).

B. Relationship of requests to the proposed programme of work

2. The activities proposed in the draft resolution are related to major programme IV, International economic cooperation for development, programme 16, Environment, subprogramme 10, Environmental management measures of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1993. These activities have not been programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

3. According to its report (A/AC.237/12), the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would continue negotiations, in the course of its fifth session and the resumed fifth session, on various aspects of the framework convention on climate change, with a view to adopting it in time for it to be opened for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. A report on the outcome of the negotiations and possible future steps would be submitted by the Chairman of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. The framework convention would be opened for signature by Member States at the Conference. An ad hoc expert group meeting to provide additional expertise relating to the mechanisms of the convention, including modalities for transfer of financial resources and technology, would be conducted in Geneva in 1992. A number of follow-up activities, including promotion of ratification and entry into force of the convention, might be required during the second half of 1992 and beyond. The ad hoc secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, under the overall guidance of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and in collaboration with other programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, would continue to provide substantive support to the entire negotiating process, facilitating participation therein, particularly that of developing countries, and promoting public awareness of the process through communication with information media and non-governmental organizations. After the convention is signed, the ad hoc secretariat would assist Member States in the process of entering the convention into force. The secretariat would also assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of his reports to the General Assembly, as required.

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

4. The activities called for by the draft resolution would require the creation of new programme narratives under section 11 F, "Protection of global climate", of section 11, Development and international economic cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, as follows:

11 F.1 Particular attention will be given to the monitoring and promotion of a single negotiating process to prepare an effective framework convention on climate change and relating legal instruments

established by the General Assembly in resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990. Substantive support will be provided to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with a view to having the framework convention ready for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Follow-up activities promoting ratification and entry into force of the convention will be undertaken. A report on the programme implementation and possible future requirements in relation to climate change will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

E. Financial arrangements and estimated resource requirements for the proposed activities

5. By its resolution 45/212, paragraph 20, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, "that the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations". This resolution was adopted without a statement of programme budget implications. Accordingly, the Secretariat support to the negotiating process has been provided through a number of ad hoc and specific arrangements. By December 1991, the staffing of the ad hoc secretariat was as follows: three staff members from the World Meteorological Organization (one D-1, two GS), three from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (one D-1, one P-4, one GS) and four (including the Head at the D-2 level, one P-3, one P-2, one GS) from other parts of the United Nations Secretariat. The total cost of this supporting secretariat - staff and other expenses - amounted to \$2,182,000 in 1991. In addition, the conference servicing of four sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee - amounting to \$1,522,000 at full cost - has been provided from within the overall conference-servicing capacity of the Organization under section 29, Department of Conference Services. Also, a trust fund for the negotiating process has been established for the financing of operation other than staff costs. Contributions to the fund have not yet been received. Finally, a special voluntary trust fund to support participation of developing countries in the negotiating process has been established. In 1991, contributions to the voluntary trust fund amounted to \$1,068,000 and covered all the expenses relating to the participation of developing countries in the four sessions of the Committee. A balance of \$50,000 is expected by year-end.

6. The current ad hoc arrangements for the financing by the regular budget of the United Nations of part of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee cannot be prolonged. They are too precarious to ensure a proper servicing of an activity whose importance is being reiterated by the General Assembly through draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80. It is, first, proposed to present the cost of this activity under a new subsection 11 F, Protection of global climate, under section 11, Development and international economic cooperation. Secondly, it is proposed to finance the ad hoc

secretariat during the process of the preparation and follow-up of the Convention primarily from the United Nations regular budget. The following resources would be required in 1992:

	\$	\$
(a) <u>Staff requirements</u>		
General temporary assistance		949 000
(equivalent to one D-2 for 12 w/m;		
one D-1 for 12 w/m; one P-5 for 12 w/m;		
one P-4 for 12 2/m; one P-3 for 12 w/m;		
one P-2 for 12/2m; GS for 60 w/m)		
(b) <u>Other requirements (non-staff)</u>		
Consultants (six w/m)	48 000	
Overtime	4 100	
Expert group (10 experts)	35 000	
Travel of staff	149 000	
Communications	35 000	
Hospitality	6 000	
General operating expenses	20 000	
Supplies and materials	10 000	
Furniture and equipment	<u>40 000</u>	<u>347 000</u>
Total		<u><u>1 296 000</u></u>

7. In addition, the posts currently financed by the World Meteorological Organization (one D-1, two GS), by UNEP (one P-4, one GS) and under bilateral arrangements (one L-4, two L-2) would remain available at least through June 1992.

8. The tasks of the staff referred to under "general temporary assistance" in paragraph 6 above would be the following:

- (a) The D-2 post would be for the head of the ad hoc secretariat;

(b) The D-1 post would be for a deputy head who would also be responsible for the organization and supervision of the substantive work and for the liaison with Member States and other participants in the negotiating process;

(c) The P-5 post would be for a senior economic officer who would be responsible for organizing analyses related to the economic aspects of climate change;

(d) The P-4 post would be for the legal officer who would be responsible for analysis, drafting and advice on legal aspects of the framework convention and related legal instruments;

(e) The P-3 post would be for an officer who would assist the head of the ad hoc secretariat and be responsible for documentation, conference planning and liaison with the Department of Conference Services and the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services on issues of servicing the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

(f) The P-2 post would be for an officer who would assist the economic and legal officers.

9. In relation to the meetings in 1992 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, as proposed in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, it should be noted that in conformity with General Assembly resolution 40/243, United Nations bodies shall meet at their respective headquarters. Bearing in mind that the established headquarters of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is Geneva, the holding of the fifth session and the resumed fifth session of the Committee in New York would require an exception to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243.

10. Should the General Assembly grant such an exception, the conference-servicing costs of the two sessions would be in the amount of \$915,500, as follows:

1. Fifth session of the International Negotiating Committee
(New York, 18-28 February 1992)

	\$
A. Pre-session documentation (200 pages, 4 documents: ACEFRS)	218 700
B. Meeting services (Interpretation: ACEFRS)	96 600
C. In-session documentation (100 pages, 10 documents: ACEFRS)	111 500
D. Post-session documentation (50 pages, 2 documents: ACEFRS)	<u>55 100</u>
Total	<u>481 900</u>

2. Fifth resumed session of the International Negotiating Committee
(New York, five days in April 1992)

	\$
A. Pre-session documentation (200 pages, 4 documents: ACEFRS)	218 700
B. Meeting services (Interpretation: ACEFRS)	48 300
C. In-session documentation (50 pages, 2 documents: ACEFRS)	111 500
D. Post-session documentation (50 pages, 2 documents: ACEFRS)	<u>55 100</u>
Total	<u>433 600</u>
Grand total	<u>915 500</u>

11. The costs of the participation of developing countries at the fifth session and the fifth resumed session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee are estimated at \$810,000.

12. Possible requirements for the year 1993 would be estimated at the end of 1992 and, if necessary, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

F. Potential for absorption

Conference-servicing costs

13. As indicated in paragraph 10 above, the estimates of conference-servicing costs totalling \$915,500 would be provided from the overall conference-servicing capacity of the Organization. Those estimates 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 (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 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 proposed calendar of conferences for the biennium 1992-1993. As indicated in section 32, paragraph 32.5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, however, the level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings in 1992-1993 was estimated, on the basis of previous experience, to accommodate not only meetings that 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 the budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and the distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1992-1993 were 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 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution.

Non-conference servicing requirements

14. The costs of the activities of the ad hoc secretariat in 1992 would amount to \$1,296,000, as estimated in paragraph 6 above. Part of these costs could be financed from the trust fund for the negotiating process. In 1992, contributions of \$90,000 to the fund are expected. The remaining costs, \$1,206,000, would represent the additional requirements to be charged against the regular budget and treated in the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

15. The cost of the participation of the developing countries in the negotiating process (\$810,000) would have to be financed from the voluntary fund under the arrangements established by resolution 45/212 (para.10). Additional contributions are required and expected.

G. Contingency fund

16. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Also,

each statement of programme budget implications and each proposed revised estimates should contain alternatives to the financing from the contingency fund of the proposed new activities through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. In this particular case, no activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

H. Conclusions

17. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the proposed programme of work would be added under a new subsection 11 F. An additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,206,000 would be required under section 11 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in connection with activities of the ad hoc secretariat, subject to the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund.

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