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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE 1990s

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.68

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

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 14 of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.68, the General Assembly would stress the importance of effective follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, and, in that context, request the Secretary-General to make resources available from the regular budget of the United Nations to meet the cost of participation of at least one representative of each least developed country at the spring session of the Trade and Development Board, which, in accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action and Assembly resolution 45/206, would undertake the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. Under the current arrangements established by the General Assembly in resolution 1798 (XVII) and subsequent resolutions, representatives of States which are members of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council are reimbursed for their travel costs from the regular budget. This practice applies to the least developed countries as well as to other Member States. In addition, following the relevant provision of General Assembly resolution 41/213, only the representatives of the least developed countries are reimbursed for their travel costs for attending the sessions of the General Assembly. The proposal contained in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution would therefore modify the existing arrangements established by the General Assembly.

3. It should also be noted in this context that it has been the practice in recent years of facilitating the attendance of representatives of the least developed countries at United Nations meetings through extrabudgetary resources. For example, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/91, a voluntary fund was established for supporting developing countries' participation in the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/212, a voluntary fund was established to ensure that developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, participated in the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change. Similar arrangements have been made to facilitate the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, and in the preparatory process for those conferences.

4. It is estimated that one representative from each of the 40 Member States currently included in the list of the least developed countries would participate in the spring session of the Trade and Development Board in 1992 and 1993. The reference to "the cost of participation" in the draft resolution is subject to interpretation. However, it has been assumed in the present statement that the same practice should apply as for attendance at sessions of the General Assembly. Therefore, only travel costs are included in these estimates. Assuming the full use of this entitlement by representatives of the least developed countries, estimated additional costs of \$304,400 would arise during the biennium 1992-1993 for the spring sessions of the Trade and Development Board as follows:

| | 1992 \$ | 1993 \$ |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Air fare for 40 participants from least developed countries | 143 000 | 150 200 |
| Terminal expenses for 40 participants from least developed countries | <u>5 500</u> | <u>5 700</u> |
| Total | <u>148 500</u> | <u>155 900</u> |

5. No provision has been made under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 ^{1/} for the representation of the least developed countries at any UNCTAD meetings, and it is not anticipated that the requirements of \$304,400 could be absorbed under that budget section. Thus, these costs represent additional requirements for the biennium 1992-1993 to be treated within the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

6. Under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. In addition, each

statement of programme budget implications and each proposal for revised estimates should contain alternatives to the financing of the proposed new activities from the contingency fund, indicating possible modification, postponement or termination of existing activities.

7. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the required costs from the contingency fund, implementation of the arrangements proposed in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

8. In summary, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.68, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$304,400 would be required under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the guidelines for the operation and use of the contingency fund.

Notes

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