



## General Assembly

Distr.  
LIMITED

A/C.2/46/L.85  
27 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Forty-sixth session  
SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 77 (a)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Specific actions related to the particular needs and  
problems of land-locked developing countries

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.57

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 paragraphs 9 to 13 of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.57, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to carry out specific studies in the following areas and to report on the results of those studies to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly:

- (i) Liberalization of transit services and streamlining of transit documentation and procedures;
- (ii) Implications of high-transit costs on the overall development of the land-locked developing countries;
- (iii) Identification of specific areas in the context of subregional and regional cooperation for the promotion and integration of transit infrastructure and services and harmonization of transit transport policies and legislation;
- (iv) Identification of specific areas for the expansion of the trade sector of land-locked developing countries, including the assessment of regional trade possibilities;

- (v) Improvement of the security of goods in transit;
  - (vi) Transit facilities accorded to land-locked developing countries in different regions;
  - (vii) Improvement of current transit insurance regimes;
  - (viii) Application of new information technology to improve transit services;
  - (ix) Identification of specific training needs to improve the managerial capacities and the skills of personnel involved in transit operations to ensure effective utilization of transit transport facilities;
  - (x) Development and expansion of all other alternatives and/or complements to ground transportation in order to improve the access of land-locked countries to foreign markets;
- (b) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and, where relevant, the executive heads of the subregional economic groupings, to convene subregional symposia/workshops of experts of land-locked and transit developing countries in 1992-1993 on the basis of the studies mentioned above and other relevant studies;
- (c) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to convene a meeting of high-level governmental experts of developing land-locked and transit countries and donor countries and financial and development institutions in 1993 to:
- (i) Discuss the particular problems of land-locked developing countries in general, including those that are peculiar to individual countries;
  - (ii) Consider support measures to foster better cooperative arrangements between transit and land-locked developing countries;
  - (iii) Provide an opportunity to exchange views on how effectively to tailor assistance programmes to meet the specific requirements of land-locked developing countries, including those programmes and projects that enhance cooperative arrangements between land-locked and transit developing countries;
  - (iv) Identify the problems faced in implementing donor assistance programmes in land-locked developing countries;
  - (v) Propose a concrete programme of action for the land-locked and transit developing countries, to be forwarded to the Trade and Development Board and the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, for appropriate action;

(d) Decide to strengthen the branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development dealing with land-locked and island developing countries in order to ensure the effective implementation of the activities called for by the resolution and other measures in support of land-locked developing countries;

(e) Welcome the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on progress in the implementation of specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, submitted pursuant to resolution 44/214, and request him to prepare another report, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution, the results of the studies to be undertaken in accordance with operative paragraph 9 of the resolution, and the outcome of the meeting of governmental experts of developing land-locked and transit countries and donor countries and financial and development institutions, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

**B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993**

2. The activities referred to in the draft resolution are related to major programme IV, (International Economic Cooperation for Development), programme 15, (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 2 (Land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/. They are also related to section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 2 (Land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

**C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented**

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would include in the programme of work for 1992-1993 the studies in 10 specific areas relating to land-locked developing countries listed in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution. Subregional symposia/workshops of experts of land-locked and transit developing countries (two in the ECA region, one in the ESCAP region) on the basis of the above and other relevant studies would be convened. In addition, a meeting of high-level governmental experts of developing land-locked and transit countries and donor countries and financial institutions would be convened in 1993, resulting in proposals for a programme of action for consideration by the Trade and Development Board and the General Assembly. A report containing the results of the studies in the specific areas, and the outcome of the meeting of governmental experts and representatives of donor countries and

financial and development institutions, would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

**D. Modifications required in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993**

4. The following activities would be added to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 2 (Land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes):

**(a) Parliamentary services**

Parliamentary documentation: report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Trade and Development Board, on the results of studies on: liberalization of transit services and streamlining of documentation and procedures; implications of high-transit costs; identification of specific areas for the promotion and integration of transit infrastructure and services; expansion of the trade sector of land-locked developing countries; security of goods in transit; transit facilities; transit insurance regimes; application of new information technology; training needs to improve the managerial capacities and the skills of personnel involved in transit operations; and development of alternatives and/or complements to ground transportation to improve the access of land-locked countries to foreign markets; and on the outcome of the meeting of high-level governmental experts.

**(b) Ad hoc expert group**

Meeting of high-level governmental experts on the problems of land-locked developing countries in order to, *inter alia*, formulate proposals for a concrete programme of action for land-locked and transit developing countries.

**(c) Operational activities**

Subregional symposia/workshops based on studies in specific areas of activity of land-locked and transit developing countries (two in the ECA region and one in the ESCAP region).

**E. Additional requirements at full cost**

5. The full cost of the new activities indicated in paragraph 3 above would be as follows:

Conference-servicing costsHigh-level governmental experts meeting at Geneva  
for one week in 1993

	\$
Pre-session documentation	
(100 pages, four documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	95 400
Meeting servicing	
(Interpretation, 10 meetings: A,C,E,F,R,S)	53 000
In-session documentation	
(24 pages, three documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	23 500
Post-session documentation	
(25 pages, one document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	<u>24 800</u>
Total	<u>196 700</u>

Other costs

The preparation of the studies listed in paragraph 3 above would require 72 work-months of Professional Staff, 48 work-months of General Service staff and \$50,000 or six work-months of consultancy services.

F. Potential for absorptionConference-servicing costs

6. The estimated conference-servicing costs of convening a governmental group of experts at Geneva in 1993 totalling \$196,700, 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 final calendar of conferences for 1992-1993, and was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings that were 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. 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 the draft resolution be adopted.

Other costs

7. As a result of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and related to the new tasks devolving on UNCTAD from the Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, additional resources were provided to UNCTAD in 1991. As a number of land-locked and transit countries also fall within the scope of the special programme on least developed countries, efforts will be made to adjust the work programme in these related areas, thereby absorbing the staff costs related to the additional studies requested in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution. However, it is anticipated that the additional requirements in respect of the consultancy services of \$50,000 would represent additional requirements under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, to be treated in the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

G. Contingency fund

8. 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.

9. In the event that the additional \$50,000 could not be financed from the contingency fund, it is proposed that the following low-priority activities under section 15 be postponed to the biennium 1994-1995:

Programme 14. Development finance, resource flows and external debt

Subprogramme 4. Insurance

Activities:

Parliamentary services

Parliamentary documentation; report for the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade; on ways to improve the investment performance of life insurers in developing countries (six work-months of Professional staff).

H. Summary

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.57, the proposed programme of work under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 would be increased by the new activities listed in paragraph 4 above.

11. An additional appropriation of \$50,000 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-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.

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