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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade
for Asia and the Pacific

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.2/46/L.65

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

1. At its 58th meeting, held on 11 December 1991, the Second Committee adopted, without a vote, draft decision A/C.2/46/L.65, as orally revised. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.2/46/L.83.

A. Requests contained in the draft decision

2. By draft decision A/C.2/46/L.65, as orally revised, the General Assembly would endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 of 26 July 1991, entitled "Phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994", in particular paragraph 2 of that resolution.

3. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/75, inter alia:

(a) Endorsed resolution 47/10 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, with a view to:

- (i) Raising the transport and communications infrastructural facilities and services of developing member and associate member Governments to a level commensurate with their development objectives and priorities, giving particular attention to the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries of the region;
- (ii) Encouraging the active participation of existing subregional groupings of the region in formulating and implementing the activities for the Decade within their respective subregions in coordination with the regional secretariat;
- (iii) Associating national institutions concerned with transport and communications in the implementation of the activities for the Decade;
- (iv) Promoting the active involvement of commercial sectors in the implementation of the activities for the Decade;

(b) Recommended that the General Assembly change the period of the second quinquennium of the Decade to 1992-1996 to coincide with the period of the medium-term plan, namely 1992-1997, so that adequate preparations for a regional action programme may be made, in accordance with resolution 47/10 of ESCAP;

(c) Requested the Executive Secretaries of ESCAP and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to promote intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in the formulation and implementation of a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 and every two years thereafter until the end of the Decade a report on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

4. The activities related to the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific are included in programme 31 (Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific), subprogramme 14 (Transport and communications), and programme 34 (Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia), subprogramme 15 (Transport and communications) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ as well as in sections 24 and 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

5. Should decision A/C.2/46/L.65 be adopted, a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade would be prepared, taking due account of the shortcomings identified during the first quinquennium. ESCAP and ESCWA would coordinate their activities and undertake joint projects. A working group comprising representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and subregional groupings concerned with the development of transport and communications in the two regions would be convened in 1992 by ESCAP in collaboration with ESCWA. The proposed regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade would be reviewed at a joint meeting of the working group and senior government officials responsible for transport and communications development in the two regions. A meeting of ministers of the member countries responsible for transport and communications would subsequently be convened to review, adopt and launch the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade. A report on implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/75 would be prepared for the regular session of 1992 of the Council and a report on the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade would be prepared for consideration by both Commissions at their annual sessions.

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

6. Some of the activities in relation to the Decade have already been programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. However, the preparation of the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade and joint activities by ESCAP and ESCWA in the context of the Decade would have to be added to the work programme contained in subprogramme 14 (Transport and communications) of section 24 of the proposed programme budget as follows:

1. Parliamentary services

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Substantive services: a working group, comprising representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and subregional groupings concerned with the development of transport and communications in Asia and the Pacific and in Western Asia; a joint meeting of the working group and government officials responsible for transport and communications development to prepare and review the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade; a meeting of ministers for transport and communications to review, adopt and launch the regional action programme.

4. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

After 1985-1994 add and joint projects with ESCWA within the framework of the Decade.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

7. At the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, provision had been made for the ongoing work related to the Decade. Activities to be undertaken in the context of a regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade, particularly those to be implemented jointly with ESCWA, would, however, require additional resources. In that connection, it is proposed that a temporary P-3 post be established, effective January 1992, under subprogramme 14 of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The incumbent of the post would be responsible for preparation of the working group, the joint meeting of the working group and government officials and the ministerial meeting referred to in paragraph 5 above, as well as for data collection, research and analysis required for the formulation and implementation of the regional action programme and for coordination of the joint activities to be implemented with ESCWA. The related salary and common staff costs would amount to \$73,500. In addition, consultant services in the amount of \$15,000 would be required to assist in formulating the regional action programme for the second quinquennium of the Decade. Moreover, coordination of the activities between ESCAP and ESCWA would call for additional resources for travel in the amount of \$12,000.

F. Potential for absorption

8. It is estimated that additional requirements for consultants and travel of staff totalling \$27,000 could be absorbed from within the overall provision for consultants and travel under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. As regards the estimated costs for the temporary P-3 post (\$73,500), those costs cannot be absorbed and thus represent additional requirements for the forthcoming biennium under section 24, to be treated in the context of the guidelines established for the use of the Contingency Fund.

G. Contingency Fund

9. 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 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.

10. In the event that the additional requirements of \$73,500 arising from the additional activities mentioned above cannot be met from the Contingency Fund, it is proposed that the following low-priority activities, equivalent to 24 work-months of Professional staff under subprogramme 14 of section 24, be postponed to the biennium 1994-1995:

2. Published materials

Recurrent publication: Inland Water Transport Bulletin (annual).

Non-recurrent publications: directory of railway training institutions, guide to railway research and an institutional guide to roads and road transport.

H. Summary

11. Should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/C.2/46/L.65 the activities detailed in paragraph 6 above would have to be added to the work programme under subprogramme 14 of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

12. An additional appropriation in the amount of \$73,500 would be required under section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the guidelines of the Contingency Fund. In addition, an amount of \$15,400 for staff assessment would be required under section 36 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

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

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