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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.58

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 by a recorded vote of 133 to 2, with 4 abstentions, draft resolution A/C.46/L.58 as orally revised. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.2/46/L.100.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.58, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and, pending the exercise of their right to self-determination, to plan for concerted economic and social actions by the United Nations system;

(b) Also request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation on the present resolution.

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

3. The requested activities are not included in programme 22, "Human settlements", of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ and are not programmed under section 19, "United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would assign the responsibility for the implementation of the request contained in operative paragraph 6 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Habitat would convene an expert group meeting at Geneva, for five working days, during the first half of 1992. The experts would address the issues raised in the draft resolution and make appropriate recommendations to the Secretary-General. The services of consultants would be required to prepare a background paper on the subject for consideration at the meeting. Finally, a report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the draft resolution would be prepared in 1993 for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

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

5. The activities called for by the draft resolution would require the addition of new programme narratives to section 19, "United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", subprogramme 1, "Global issues and strategies", of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, as follows:

Under Parliamentary services, add:

One report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and on actions by the United Nations system for improving those conditions pending the exercise of their right to self-determination.

Insert a new category of activity reading:

Ad hoc expert groups

Meeting on issues concerning living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the Secretary-General.

E. Additional requirements at full costs

6. The requirements to undertake the activities described in paragraph 4 above are as follows:

| | \$ |
|--|----------------------|
| Consultancy services (two consultants for two work-months each) | 29 000 |
| Ad hoc expert group (five experts for one five-day meeting at Geneva) | 12 000 |
| Travel and daily subsistence allowance for two staff members of Habitat for the servicing of the ad hoc expert group meeting at Geneva | <u>6 000</u> |
| Total | <u>47 000</u> |

F. Potential for absorption

7. No provision has been made under section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to undertake the activities described in paragraph 4 above. It is not anticipated that the expenditure of \$47,000 referred to above could be absorbed under section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Thus, it represents additional requirements for the biennium 1992-1993, to be treated within the context of the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

G. Contingency fund

8. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. If additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of proposed activities; otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium. In addition, each statement of

programme budget implications and each proposal for revised estimates should contain alternatives to financing the proposed new activities from the contingency fund.

9. In the event that the additional \$47,000 cannot be financed from the contingency fund, the following activities of low priority under section 19 would be postponed to the biennium 1994-1995:

Subprogramme 1. Global issues and strategies

Activities:

2. Published material

(b) Two non-recurrent publications; two synopses of evaluations undertaken during 1991 and 1992 (eight work-months of Professional staff, five work-months of local-level staff and \$6,000 for external printing and binding).

H. Conclusions

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.58, the programme of work under section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 would be increased by the additional activities listed in paragraph 4 above.

11. An additional appropriation in the amount of \$47,000 would be required under section 19 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.
