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Agenda item 67

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE
OF PEACE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/42/29

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 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution contained in document A/42/29, the General Assembly would:

(a) Renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions and request the Committee to intensify its work with regard to the implementation of its mandate;

(b) Request the Ad Hoc Committee to hold three preparatory sessions in 1988, each of a duration of one week, one session of which could be held at Colombo in accordance with a decision to be taken by the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session in 1988;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records, in recognition of its preparatory function, as well as verbatim transcripts for a possible meeting at Colombo.

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

2. The activities proposed fall under chapter 1 (Political and Security Council affairs activities), programme 2 (Activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs), subprogramme 1 (Deliberation and negotiation) of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. 1/ As part of the reforms initiated in response to General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Secretary-General has decided that, in order to permit the consolidation of servicing for General Assembly agenda items related to zones and regions of peace and co-operation, primary responsibility for servicing the Ad Hoc Committee should rest with the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs.

3. This change will be reflected in the next revision of the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 and has been reflected in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as amended by the report of the Secretary-General updating his progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213. 2/ Programme element 2.4 (Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean) of subprogramme 2 (Service for Political and Security Council affairs) of section 2A.B (Department of Political and Security Council Affairs) of the proposed programme budget provides for substantive servicing of at least two sessions annually of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. 3/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would undertake the necessary preparations for the servicing of three sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in 1988, each of one week's duration, and one session of which could be held at Colombo subject to a decision to be taken by the Committee at its first session in 1988.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1988-1989

5. As provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 for substantive servicing of at least two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee annually, no modification would be required in the proposed programme of work under section 2A.

E. Additional requirements at full costs

6. Should the General Assembly decide to adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/42/29, it is assumed that the Ad Hoc Committee would hold three sessions of one week's duration during 1988, from 11 to 15 April, from 11 to 15 July, and from 25 to 29 July, one session of which could be held in Colombo in accordance with a decision to be taken by the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session of 1988. The meetings would require the provision of interpretation in the six languages of

the General Assembly; translation of pre-session documentation of 50 pages (13 documents), in-session documentation of 95 pages (20 documents) and post-session documentation of 85 pages (15 documents), to be issued in the six languages of the General Assembly; the meetings in New York would require the provision of summary records in the six languages of the General Assembly. As regards the possibility of holding one session of the Ad Hoc Committee at Colombo, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 37/14 C of 16 November 1982, that the Ad Hoc Committee should be entitled to summary records (para. 3) and that subsidiary organs entitled to receive written meeting records should receive them when meeting away from recognized United Nations conference centres only when there was a specific decision by the General Assembly for each case (para. 9). Should the Ad Hoc Committee decide to hold one session at Colombo, therefore, the General Assembly would have to make a specific decision as to whether the Committee would be entitled to written meeting records for that session and whether such records should be in the form of summary records or verbatim transcripts. Furthermore, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that should the Committee decide to accept the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka and hold one session at Colombo, the host Government would defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in meeting at Colombo rather than New York in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985.

7. The related full cost of provision of conference servicing for three one-week sessions in New York is estimated at \$262,200 for the first session, \$272,300 for the second session and \$303,100 for the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

	<u>First session</u>	<u>Second session</u>	<u>Third session</u>
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u>			
(10 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	11 200		
(20 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)		21 800	21 800
II. <u>Meeting servicing</u>			
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	51 000	51 000	51 000
III. <u>In-session documentation</u>			
(20 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)		21 200	
(25 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	26 300		
(50 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)			52 000
IV. <u>Post-session documentation</u>			
(25 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	27 100		
(30 pages, 5 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)		31 700	31 700

	<u>First session</u>	<u>Second session</u>	<u>Third session</u>
V. <u>Summary records</u>			
(15 meetings: A,C,E,F,R,S)	133 500	133 500	133 500
VI. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	<u>13 100</u>	<u>13 100</u>	<u>13 100</u>
Total	<u>262 200</u>	<u>272 300</u>	<u>303 100</u>

F. Potential for absorption

8. Section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 provides for substantive servicing of at least two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee annually.

9. As regards cost estimates for conference-servicing requirements, they are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of them will be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services which would require additional resources for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which permanent capacity of the Department needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences to be approved by the General Assembly. As indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/42/6, sect. 29), however, the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings have been estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditure for the period 1982-1986 and included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates. Provision has already been made, therefore, not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for those authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences held during 1988-1989 is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years.

G. Summary

10. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/42/29, no additional appropriations would be required under section 2A or section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

11. Should the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean decide, at its first session of 1988, to hold one session at Colombo, an exception to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 37/14 C relating to meeting records would be required.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6) and *ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6).

2/ A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1.

3/ *Ibid.*, para. 20.
