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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

Revised estimates resulting from resolution 1987/94 of the Economic
and Social Council on broad representation in the Committee for
Programme and Co-ordination

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. At the 41st meeting of its resumed second regular session, on 4 December 1987, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1987/94 on broad representation in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the implementation of which would involve additional expenditure by the United Nations in the biennium 1988-1989. In accordance with paragraph 3 of rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General submitted a cost estimate in respect of the resolution prior to its adoption.

2. By paragraph 1 of the resolution the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly that from 1988 onward, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination be composed of 34 States Members of the United Nations, elected for a three-year term on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, as follows: Nine seats for African States; seven seats for Asian States; seven seats for Latin American and Caribbean States; seven seats for Western European and other States; and four seats for Eastern European States. Also, by paragraph 2, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly that it elect the new members of the Committee at its forty-second session.

3. The Council was informed that, at present, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination consists of representatives of 21 Member States. By paragraph 12 of its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly decided that the

Organization should bear the cost of travel (on the basis of economy class) and subsistence expenses (at standard rates applicable to officials of the Secretariat plus 15 per cent) of one representative of each Member State of the Committee as a special exception to the basic principles set out in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962. The arrangement was decided upon for an experimental period and was to have been reviewed by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. The review was not undertaken by the Assembly and, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1984/1, the Economic and Social Council decided to recommend to the General Assembly the continuation of the current application of paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 31/93. It was therefore assumed that enlargement of the membership of the Committee would entail additional expenditure for travel of representatives based on continuation during the biennium 1988-1989 of the arrangements initially authorized by the General Assembly in resolution 31/93.

4. By paragraph 10 of its resolution 31/93, the General Assembly approved the extension of the duration of sessions of the Committee to six weeks in the plan years and four weeks in the budget year. The Secretary-General's initial estimate for the biennium 1988-1989 under section 1 of the proposed programme budget was therefore based on the Committee meeting for six weeks in 1988 and four weeks in 1989. Subject to any decision the General Assembly might take at its forty-second session with regard to the Committee's programme of work in those two years, it was assumed that the Committee would meet for six weeks in 1988 and four weeks in 1989. It was recalled, however, that it had sometimes proved necessary for the Assembly to authorize resumed sessions of the Committee, most recently in 1987, and that, should this prove necessary during the 1988-1989 biennium, it would have financial implications.

5. Should the General Assembly accept the Council's recommendations, it was estimated that the additional cost of travel and subsistence expenses for 13 additional States Members elected to the Committee would be \$214,500 during the biennium 1988-1989 on a full-cost basis. Travel costs were estimated on the basis of an average figure, and actual costs would vary depending on which States Members were elected to the Committee. Past experience indicated that not all members of the Committee would avail themselves of the provisions of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 31/93. On the basis of that experience, it was assumed that 9 of the 13 new members would avail themselves of the above provisions. It was thus estimated that the additional cost of travel and subsistence expenses would be \$148,500.

6. On that basis, should the General Assembly decide that from 1988 onward, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination shall be composed of 34 members, an additional appropriation of \$148,500 would be required under Section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and co-ordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.
