



Seventh session
Agenda item 42

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1953

Financial implications of resolutions adopted by the
Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session

(Revised estimates for sections 3, 10, 11, 20 and 25)

Eighth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions to the seventh session of the General Assembly

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 533 C (VI) of 4 February 1952, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has examined the revised estimates for the financial year 1953 for sections 3, 10, 11, 20 and 25 submitted by the Secretary-General in documents A/C.5/498 and Add.1.
2. The following table shows, in respect of the five budget sections under consideration, the amounts originally proposed respectively by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, together with the additional provision which may be called for if the decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session (June - August 1952) are approved.

Estimates originally proposed by the Secretary-General (A/2125)	Estimates originally recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/2157)	Revised estimates proposed by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/428) (additional provision)	Revised estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee (additional provision)	Total proposed by the Secretary-General	Total recommended by the Advisory Committee
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Section 3
The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees

89,000		177,150		266,150	
	89,000		130,900 ^{c/}		219,900 ^{c/}

Section 10
Department of Economic Affairs

(2,348,500)					
2,304,000 ^{a/}		6,600		2,310,600	
	2,304,000				2,304,000

Section 11
Department of Social Affairs

(1,776,500)					
1,748,500 ^{a/}		12,600		1,761,100	
	1,748,500		1,000		1,749,500

Section 20
United Nations Office at Geneva

(4,379,700)					
4,306,800 ^{b/}		190,900		4,497,700	
	4,306,800		126,800 ^{c/}		4,433,600 ^{c/}

Section 25
Official Records

(800,500)					
750,000 ^{a/}		11,150		761,150	
	750,000				750,000

Total proposed by the Secretary-General	\$9,596,700
Total recommended by the Advisory Committee	\$9,457,000

(Footnotes to chart on page 2)

- a/ Figure recommended by the Advisory Committee and not contested by the Secretary-General.
- b/ Figure recommended by the Advisory Committee and not contested by the Secretary-General, except as regards \$9,000 in respect of chapter III, Joint Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Drug Supervisory Body.
- c/ On certain of the items in sections 3 and 20 the Advisory Committee has recommended that the distribution of the proposed reductions as between those two sections should be left to the discretion of the Secretary-General (see paragraphs 6 and 7 below). For convenience of presentation, however a tentative distribution has been attempted in the above table.

3. The Advisory Committee is not in a position, at the present time, to make final recommendations concerning the precise budget provision. Its report is submitted, in accordance with the above mentioned General Assembly resolution, as a statement of financial implications and subject to the following considerations: (a) the report of the Economic and Social Council has still to be considered by the Second Committee and the Third Committee. Those bodies may propose to vary decisions taken by the Council. The final decision of principle, on the programmes as a whole, which rests with the General Assembly, will thus be subject to recommendations to be submitted both by its substantive and budgetary committees; (b) in addition, the assembly will itself consider, in plenary meeting without prior reference to a Main Committee, the basic conference pattern at Headquarters and Geneva, a question which necessarily will have a direct bearing on the proposed volume of expenditure. The Advisory Committee has referred in previous reports to the serious consequences, both budgetary and administrative, to which the holding of Council sessions away from Headquarters gives rise.^{1/}

4. The estimates submitted are not accompanied by any proposal for the deferment of less urgent or less important projects; nor is there any indication in the Secretary-General's report that concrete proposals for financing the present projects within the total originally estimated for economic and social activities^{2/} were made to or examined by the Council.

5. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that certain of the proposed expenditures, if the projects are ultimately approved, might reasonably be absorbed in the estimates of the department concerned; in other cases the provision appears to be estimated on too liberal a scale. This assumes a special importance as regards the year 1953, when - on present showing - assessments on Members will substantially exceed the 1952 figure.

Section 3. The Economic and Social Council, Commissions and Committees

The Economic and Social Council

6. The Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$49,300 in the figure submitted (\$169,300) as the estimated cost of holding the sixteenth session of the

^{1/} A/1629 (paragraph 4) Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session Annexes, agenda item 39; A/2157 (paragraph 21), Ibid., Seventh Session, Supplement No.7.

^{2/} A/2125, Ibid., Seventh Session, Supplement No.5.

Council at Geneva instead of Headquarters. While the distribution of the proposed reduction over the various expenditure items in sections 3 and 20 is left to the discretion of the Secretary-General, the Committee calls special attention to three points: (a) insufficient account is taken of staff reserves in the Geneva office which might be diverted for this purpose, even though the temporary assistance item under chapter I of section 20 assumes a conference programme limited for the most part to Geneva-based bodies; (b) the number of substantive and technical staff proposed for assignment from Headquarters appears altogether too high and the Committee would expect that, with suitable briefing, a larger number of subjects could be dealt with by each of the substantive officers; (c) no reduction is proposed in Headquarters appropriations as a result of the transfer of the Council session to Geneva, although savings should thereby be effected in temporary assistance, particularly under sections 10, 11 and 15 of the budget.

Commission on Human Rights

7. The above considerations apply with equal force, in so far as temporary assistance is concerned, to the estimates for the proposed Geneva session of the Commission on Human Rights. It should be possible for the Geneva Office to provide a large proportion of the services required by this Commission in such areas as documents reproduction, secretarial and clerical work and technical facilities. The Advisory Committee recommends that the supplementary appropriation should not exceed \$40,000, the reduction to be distributed over expenditure items in sections 3 and 20 at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

8. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities requested the Commission on Human Rights to "convene for attendance at the second part of its ninth session the chairman of the Sub-Commission, whom the Sub-Commission has selected as its spokesman for this purpose". No action has yet been taken in the matter either by the Commission on Human Rights or by the Economic and Social Council, and the Advisory Committee does not feel called upon to submit comments on this item in advance of a decision by the competent bodies on the merits of the proposal, or to include the amount of \$1,500 in a statement of the financial implications of the Council's decisions.

Commission on the Status of Women; Social Commission; Statistical Commission

9. The Advisory Committee has no comment to offer on the estimates submitted by

the Secretary-General in the following amounts: Commission on the Status of Women, \$10,800; Social Commission, \$10,800; Statistical Commission, \$9,000. As regards the last-named body, the Committee was informed that a corresponding saving will be made on the 1952 appropriation.

Committee on the financing of economic development of under-developed countries

10. The Secretary-General indicates (A/C.5/498, paragraph 8) that he will endeavour to secure the services of the members of the Committee on the basis of the payment of subsistence allowance only, without daily fees. Such an arrangement accords with the opinion previously recorded by the Advisory Committee that the payment of fees in addition to travel and subsistence expenses to members of Commissions and Committees whether serving as experts or in a representative capacity cannot be reconciled with the principles adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 231 (III) of 8 October 1948 and re-affirmed in resolution 459 (V) of 1 December 1950. It may also be noted that a membership of nine was indicated by the Economic and Social Council as a maximum figure. In view of these considerations and of the fact that the number of members of the proposed Committee may fall below nine, the Advisory Committee recommends that the provision should be limited to \$25,000.

Rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information

11. By resolution 442 C (XIV) of 13 June 1952, the Economic and Social Council decided to appoint, for an experimental period of one year, and in a personal capacity, a rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information. The estimate submitted includes \$2,500 to cover the payment of an honorarium. The Advisory Committee deprecates the payment of honoraria to rapporteurs of United Nations bodies and as an alternative would have preferred that provision should be made on a per diem basis within a maximum of \$2,000. It may be recalled in this connexion that only in exceptional cases has the General Assembly concurred in the payment of honoraria for work performed on behalf of the United Nations.

Section 10. Department of Economic Affairs

12. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the amount of \$6,600 for work in the area of water resource development should be found within the regular budget of the Department of Economic Affairs, by a re-assignment of personnel and, if necessary, the postponement of less important tasks. Such a postponement would be fully in accord with the policy laid down by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the concentration of effort and resources.

Section 11. Department of Social Affairs

World Population Conference of Experts

13. The Secretary-General has requested two additional posts for a period of three months to assist the Director and Deputy Director of the Population Division on work connected with the World Population Conference of Experts, at an estimated cost of \$5,200. The Advisory Committee considers that the existing staff in the Population Division should be able to absorb the extra preparatory work for the Conference, and recommends that the supplementary provision should be limited to \$1,000 in respect of the travel expenses of one staff member from Headquarters to the preparatory meeting to be held in Geneva.

Report on methods of defining and measuring minimum standards of living in various countries

14. The Secretary-General has been requested by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 434 B (XIV)) to convene a small group of experts to prepare a report on the most satisfactory methods of defining and measuring standards of living and changes therein in the various countries. The Advisory Committee considers that the preliminary work in question could be efficiently performed by specialist staff members of the United Nations in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization. It sees no justification for engagement of outside experts.

Section 20. United Nations Office at Geneva

Full implementation of rule 40 of the rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe

15. The proposed provision of \$46,800 for the full implementation rule 40 of the rules of procedure of ECE falls into two parts:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (a) Cost of additional staff requirements for current annual work-load of Russian translation | \$ 25,800 |
| (b) Cost of liquidating arrears of Russian translation | 21,000 |

As regards the liquidation of arrears of translation generally, the Advisory Committee suggests that consultations should be held with the governments of interested Member States in order to determine whether it is in fact essential to attempt a complete and early liquidation of such arrears. Consultations of this kind might well lead to the conclusion that the arrears could be treated on a selective basis according to the importance of the material, and that - even where full liquidation is desired - the work might be spread over a considerable period. In the present case, there is the further consideration that difficulty and delay may arise in the recruitment of qualified translators. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the proposed provision should be limited to \$36,800, a figure sufficient to cover the full requirements under (a) above, and allow a margin of \$11,000 for requirements under (b).

Section 25. Official Records

16. The additional printing costs arising out of decisions taken by the Council at its fourteenth session are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$11,150. The Advisory Committee believes that this requirement might be met within the total provision for section 25 which the Fifth Committee, in its first reading of the budget estimates, recommended for approval at \$750,000. In the event, however, that this should not prove possible, the Committee would give favourable consideration to the transfer to section 25 of savings on other appropriation sections.

17. The Advisory Committee desires to reiterate its view that the comments offered in the present report constitute only a statement on financial implications, which is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 533 C (VI) and rule 152 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

Recapitulation

	Secretary-General's proposal	Advisory Committee's recommenda- tion	Reduction recommended
	\$	\$	\$
Economic and Social Council session	Section 3 84,200 Section 20 85,100	120,000	49,300
Commission on Human Rights session	Section 3 9,000 Section 20 59,000	40,000	28,000
Attendance at above session of spokesman of Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities	Section 3 1,500	-	1,500
Sessions of:			
Commission on the Status of Women	Section 3 10,800	10,800	-
Social Commission	Section 3 10,800	10,800	-
Statistical Commission	Section 3 9,000	9,000	-
Committee on the financing of economic development	Section 3 46,050 Section 25, 3,900	25,000 -	21,000 3,900
Rapporteur on matters relating to freedom of information	Section 3 5,800 Section 25 3,000	5,300 -	500 3,000
Department of Economic Affairs Water resource development	Section 10 6,600	-	6,600
Department of Social Affairs World Population Conference	Section 11 7,000	1,000	6,000
Experts on definition of standards of living	Section 11 5,600	-	5,600
Full implementation of rule 40 of the rules of procedure of ECE	Section 20 46,800	36,800	10,000
Limitation of the production of opium:			
Report of the Conference of States	Section 25 2,900	-	2,900
Draft Convention	Section 25 1,350	-	1,350
	<u>\$398,400</u>	<u>\$258,700</u>	<u>\$139,700</u>
