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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: COMPREHENSIVE
POLICY REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/C.2/35/L.38

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

1. At its 38th meeting, the Second Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/35/L.38. It had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/35/L.46).
2. In paragraph 15 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/35/L.38, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to entrust the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation with the preparation of a report on policy issues pertaining to operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system, following the methodology utilized in his report to the current session, 1/ and the provisions of the present resolution, as well as the views and comments made by delegations on the issue of operational activities for development at the second regular session of 1980 of the Economic and Social Council and at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, for submission to the Assembly through the Council. The report would form the basis of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities that the General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, would decide to undertake in 1983, and which would be undertaken thereafter every three years, on the basis of a coherent, integrated and systematic approach.
3. In paragraph 16 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Director-General to develop, for inclusion in the above-mentioned report, and

1/ A/35/224 and Corr.1.

in the light of such consideration as may be given to the question by the various governing bodies concerned, recommendations on new and specific ways and means of mobilizing increased resources for operational activities of the system on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis.

4. In the same paragraph of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Director-General to include in the above-mentioned report an elaboration of the suggestion that gaps exist in the operational activities of the United Nations system, especially in relation to the restructuring of international economic relations, and to suggest ways and means of filling such gaps, thereby strengthening the United Nations system and making it more responsive to the needs of the developing countries.

5. In paragraph 17 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to entrust the Director-General with submission to the Assembly of an annual report on operational activities for development, which should also be made available for information purposes, to the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, containing comprehensive statistical information concerning all operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including the information requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 31 of the annex to resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, and contained in appendices II and III to the report of the Director-General (A/35/224), with a further elaboration thereof in the light of commitments undertaken.

6. In paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Director-General to include in his annual report to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session information on progress made by the heads of organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in adopting all possible measures to improve management procedures, to reduce administrative and other support costs, and to enhance over-all efficiency in the execution of programmes and projects in the field of operational activities for development.

7. In the same paragraph of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Director-General to develop for inclusion in his annual report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session and in the light of such recommendations as may be made on the matter by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, his own recommendations on measures to reduce administrative and other support costs as well as to achieve maximum uniformity and harmonization of administrative, financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures and to improve the project procedures in the execution of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

8. In paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would welcome the progress being made in the implementation of paragraph 34 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and would request the Secretary-General to complete as expeditiously as possible the process of designation of resident co-ordinators, taking fully into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/213 of 19 December 1979.

9. The Secretary-General envisages that the task to be requested of him under paragraph 12 of the draft resolution would include action on his part to ensure, in consultation with the Governments and executive heads of the organizations concerned, that the resident co-ordinator is enabled, in the exercise of his functions, to give effect to the principles enunciated in resolution 34/213. 2/

10. The above-mentioned undertakings, proposed in the draft resolution, would entail several specific new tasks which are additional to the continuing responsibilities entrusted to the Office of the Director-General in respect of operational activities for development. 3/ Those additional tasks imply a greater involvement in substantive and policy issues concerning operational activities, including, for example, questions relating to the efficient management of the operational activities of the system, new and specific means of resource mobilization, and the preparation of policy guidance for the functioning of the new system of resident co-ordinators. They also involve responsibilities for the compilation and review of a wide range of statistical material. It is the intention of the Director-General, in the discharge of these additional responsibilities, to absorb as many of them as possible within existing resources and to avail himself fully of the assistance and co-operation of the other United Nations organizational units, services and organs and of the various organizations of the system as a whole, including the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, while recognizing the limits that exist in the extent to which this intention may be realized in practice. 4/

11. It may be noted, in particular, that many of the tasks indicated above are of a continuing nature, while a few are time-bound; at the same time, some of those tasks, recurrent as well as non-recurrent, call for the submission of reports during 1981, while others provide for a longer period of preparation and entail reporting either during 1982 or beginning from 1983 every three years.

12. Taking into account the considerations outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11 above, it is necessary to consider, in respect of the additional tasks required to be performed during 1981, a modest increase in the resources currently available to the Director-General, it being understood that as regards other responsibilities on which intensive work would not be required until the beginning of 1982, the Secretary-General would pursue the matter of the possible additional requirements of the Office of the Director-General in the context of his proposals for the programme budget of 1982-1983.

2/ See "Progress report on the implementation of paragraph 34 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197" (E/1980/36), paras. 8-12.

3/ See the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system" (A/33/410/Rev.1), para. 30.

4/ See, for example, paragraphs 36 and 37 of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system: implementation of section VIII of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 and section IV of Assembly resolution 33/202" (A/35/527).

13. In view of the above, it has been estimated that in 1981 the Office of the Director-General would require additional resources equivalent to 12 work-months of temporary assistance. This would be used in connexion, inter alia, with the following specific tasks: providing guidance for the compilation and review of the statistical information required under paragraph 17 of the draft resolution; analysing material relating to the progress made by organs, organizations and bodies under paragraph 9 of the draft resolution; assisting in the performance of the task indicated in paragraphs 7 and 8 above relating to the new system of resident co-ordinators; and elements of the preparatory work for the report required under paragraphs 15 and 16 of the draft resolution. Since those tasks will involve additional travel for the Office of the Director-General for the purpose of consultations with the organizations of the United Nations system, it is estimated that a provision for additional travel funds would also be required.

14. Therefore, should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution (A/C.2/35/L.38), an additional appropriation of \$63,000 would be required under section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, broken down as follows:

	<u>United States dollars</u>
Temporary assistance <u>a/</u>	57,000
Travel	<u>6,000</u>
	<u>63,000</u>

a/ For costing purposes, 12 work-months at P-5 level.

An appropriation of \$15,000 would also be required under section 31, "Staff assessment", to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, "Income from staff assessment".