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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIAL 1980-1981

Revised estimates under Section 27, Public Information

Development Forum

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session adopted resolution 34/182 in which it affirmed the importance of the role played by the periodical Development Forum in disseminating the objectives of the new international economic order and decided that the continued publication of the Development Forum as an interagency publication was essential and that the United Nations participation in its production should be ensured. At the same session, an amount of \$200,000 was appropriated under Section 27 of the budget by way of subvention to the Development Forum in 1980.

2. Prior to the adoption of the above resolution, a statement of administrative and financial implications was submitted to the Fifth Committee. 1/ In that statement, it was indicated that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), having expressed deep concern at the financial situation of the Development Forum and having recognized the need for its long-term financing, had, by its decision 1979/19, instructed the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) to expedite, as soon as possible, a system of long-term predictable voluntary contributions based on fixed criteria, to be implemented from 1982 and beyond. ACC also urged the organizations of the United Nations system in a position to do so to contribute to the financing of the publication for 1980-1981.

3. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report 2/ on the above statement of administrative and financial implications,

1/ A/C.5/34/81.

2/ A/34/7/Add.23.

expressed the opinion that the Secretary-General should submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, which would contain an analysis of the criteria on which the proposed plan for financing of the Development Forum is based and also full budget for 1980 and estimates for 1981.

II. Background

4. Development Forum began its publication in 1973, published by the Division (then Centre) for Economic and Social Information of the Department (then Office) of Public Information. It constituted one response to the call for special efforts to mobilize public opinion in support of development as expressed in paragraph 84 of the General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 which set forth the "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade". It was also in keeping with ECOSOC resolution 1306 (LV) of 8 August 1973 entitled "Dissemination of information and mobilization of public opinion relative to problems of development" in which the Council specifically requested the organizations of the United Nations system to co-ordinate their information programmes on economic and social development and underlined the special role to be played in this regard by the Division (then Centre) for Economic and Social Information as a focal point.

5. Development Forum, which in content, format and appearance differed from existing publications within the system of the United Nations, was very well received by a wide range of readership. Published initially in English, French and Spanish editions appeared subsequently; a German edition was published during the period of 1974-1979.

6. Over the 8 years of its existence, Development Forum has established itself as a very respected publication of the United Nations. It presents thoughts and ideas which are relevant for the process of international understanding. It has opened its columns to many writers from all parts of the world, thus enabling the reader to understand better the complicated issues in the field of development.

7. Development Forum plays an important role in highlighting, analysing and clarifying the issues that face the world community in the 1980s. It focuses attention on events and themes given priority by the General Assembly. Thus, each major Conference or Year, e.g. the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, is the subject of special supplements and articles. Other articles are linked to major debates in the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies.

8. Development Forum was initially financed by grants from the United Nations Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information which was created by donations from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands to which Japan subsequently joined.

9. The increasingly valuable contributions of Development Forum have been recognized by several organizations of the United Nations common system. Realizing the potential of this publication for their specific field of activity or interest, they agreed to contribute to the over-all costs of the General Edition. The

following organizations have up to now regularly contributed to the cost of the publication: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNCTAD, WHO, GATT and the World Bank. Furthermore, ILO, WHO and IFAD have announced they will contribute in 1981. In March 1980, the United Nations University became the co-publisher with the Department of Public Information.

10. In 1977 the Business Edition was launched combining general information and specific notices for projects and tenders from UNDP, the World Bank, the Inter-American and the Asian Development Banks.

III. Recent Developments

(a) General Edition of Development Forum

11. The United Nations University as co-publisher of the General Edition for an experimental period of 2 years decided to contribute \$200,000 each year in 1980 and 1981 to its operational cost provided that an equal amount would be allocated to Development Forum from the regular budget of the United Nations. This development has not only widened further the sources of materials and authors for articles but also has enabled the editorial team to have better access to the academic world particularly in the developing countries. The General Edition now publishes regularly, in English, French and Spanish, 10 issues of 16 pages each with supplements on specific topics financed from other sources.

12. Steps have been taken to "regionalize" the Spanish language edition so that it will contain more material specifically designed for the Latin American audience. It is also intended to develop regional sections for the English and French General Edition.

13. There are now 35,000 copies printed in English, 20,000 in French and 15,000 in Spanish for a total of 70,000 copies. The General Edition is regularly used as a source of material by some 100 newspapers throughout the world.

(b) Business Edition of Development Forum

14. In 1980, the income from subscription 3/ will cover the full cost of this

3/ The current fees of subscription are as follows:

250 US dollars per year in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and U.S.A.

420 Swiss francs per year (equivalent to \$255 US dollars at the rate of 1.65 SF to US\$ 1) in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

170 US dollars per year in developing countries.

Edition. A total of some 3,800 paid subscriptions are expected to be reached by the end of 1980, which represent 1,000 more subscriptions than that at the end of 1979. By the end of 1981 it is expected that some 4,000 subscriptions will be fully paid. The Business Edition is now financially self-supporting and may be expected to provide financial support to the General Edition.

15. A number of organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, the Inter-American, Asian, African and Caribbean Development Banks and the Commission of European Communities have published notices in the Business Edition. Contacts are being made with the Islamic Development Bank and others.

IV. 1980 Budget and 1981 Estimates

16. Details regarding the 1980 budget and the 1981 estimates are outlined below. The level of income estimates for 1981 is expected to decline (table 1) and will consequently affect the level of operation of the General Edition of Development Forum as indicated in table 2. The staffing table authorized in 1980 totalled 21 posts, 6 in the Professional category and 15 in the General Service category (table 3). The functions of the six Professional staff are as follows:

- One P-5 Editor in Chief, in charge of all aspects of the publication in its various editions.
- One P-5 Senior Administrative Officer, in charge of all areas of promotion, contractual printing, distribution of various editions and all other administrative matters.
- Three P-4 Three editors: one is responsible for the bi-monthly Business Editions and two responsible for the English and French versions of the General Edition.
- One P-2/1 Junior Editor arranges for receipt and preparation of notices from the World Bank and IDB and two monthly operational summaries.

17. The 15 General Service staff consist of two senior editorial assistants, four editorial assistants, three clerks and three secretaries in Geneva; one administrative assistant in New York; and one editorial assistant and one secretary in Washington, D.C.

18. For 1981, it is intended to keep the staffing table at the same level as in 1980. The number of issues of the General Edition of the Development Forum, however, would be reduced from 10 to 8 in view of the reduced level of income anticipated as shown in table 1. This would result in a reduced level of expenditures in temporary assistance, consultants, contractual printing, other contractual services, and distribution costs, as outlined in table 2.

19. In accordance with resolution 34/182 in which the Assembly decided that the continued publication of Development Forum as an interagency project was essential and that United Nations participation in its production should be ensured, the Secretary-General proposes that, as in 1980, an amount of \$200,000 be made available from the regular budget under Section 27, towards the financing of Development Forum. The income estimates for 1981 outlined in table 1 have been established on the assumption that this amount would again be made available from the regular budget.

Table 1

Statement of income estimates for 1980 and 1981

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
United Nations	\$ 200 000	\$ 200 000 <u>1/</u>
United Nations University	200 000	200 000 <u>2/</u>
Trust Fund for Economic and Social Information . .	180 000	90 000 <u>3/</u>
UNFPA	80 000	80 000 <u>3/</u>
UNDP	60 000	60 000
IBRD	50 000	50 000 <u>3/</u>
UNICEF	25 000	25 000 <u>3/</u>
UNEP	10 000	10 000 <u>3/</u>
WHO	7 000	7 000
UNCTAD	6 500	6 500 <u>3/</u>
GATT	1 300	1 300 <u>3/</u>
ILO	-	15 000
IFAD	-	10 000
WMO	-	2 000
Asian Development Bank	25 000	20 000
African Development Bank	20 000	15 000
Subscriptions to Business Edition	650 000 <u>4/</u>	700 000
Total	<u>\$1 514 800</u>	<u>\$1 491 800</u>

1/ See para. 19.

2/ See para. 11.

3/ Anticipated but not confirmed.

4/ Represents actual receipts of January to July 1980 of \$460,100 and expected receipts of \$189,900 for the balance of 1980.

Table 2

1980 Budget and 1981 Estimates

(in United States dollars)

	<u>1980</u>			<u>1981</u>		
	<u>General Edition</u>	<u>Business Edition</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>General Edition</u>	<u>Business Edition</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Established posts	362 000	240 000	602 000	374 000	248 000	622 000
Temporary assistance	24 000	13 000	37 000	20 000	13 000	33 000
Consultants	24 000	23 000	47 000	20 000	23 000	43 000
Common staff costs	85 000	63 000	148 000	87 000	65 000	152 000
Travel	20 000	11 000	31 000	22 000	11 000	33 000
Contractual printing	145 000	145 000	290 000	120 000	152 000	272 000
Other contractual services	46 000	18 000	64 000	35 000	19 000	54 000
Distribution costs	170 000	37 000	207 000	145 000	38 000	183 000
Communications	19 700	58 000	77 700	19 700	56 000	75 700
Supplies and equipment	8 000	12 000	20 000	8 000	12 000	20 000
	<u>903 700</u>	<u>620 000</u>	<u>1 523 700</u>	<u>850 700</u>	<u>637 000</u>	<u>1 487 700</u>

Table 3

Development Forum post requirements (by Edition)

1980-1981

	<u>General Edition</u>	<u>Business Edition</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>	
	<u>(Geneva)</u>	<u>(Geneva)</u>	<u>(New York)</u>			<u>(Washington)</u>
<u>Professional category</u>						
P-5	1	1	-	-	1	2
P-4	2	1	-	-	1	3
P-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
P-2/1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Total	3	2	-	1	3	6
<u>General Service category</u>						
Principal level	-	2	1	-	3	3
Other levels	8	2	-	2	4	12
Total	8	4	-	2	6	15
Grand Total	11	6	1	3	10	21

V. Long-term financing of Development Forum: 1982 and beyond

20. At its seventh regular session and at a special session, both held in 1980, JUNIC reviewed the long-term financing of Development Forum and arrived at a proposal for a system of predictable voluntary contributions for 1982 and beyond which is reproduced herewith:

"(a) In its decision 1979/19 ACC instructed JUNIC to expedite a system of predictable voluntary contributions for 1982 and beyond.

(b) In deciding on a proposal for such a system, JUNIC takes into consideration the decision of the General Assembly to allow a grant of \$200,000 to Development Forum for 1980 and bases its proposal on the assumption that the General Assembly will continue to make this contribution, including the annually decided correction for inflation, based on the development of the publication and the implementation of its development plan as accepted by ACC in its decision 1979/19.

(c) JUNIC notes with appreciation the participation of the United Nations University as co-publisher for a two-year period and expresses the hope that this participation, in terms of substance as well as financing, might continue after 1981. Pending the decision of the University on this matter, JUNIC welcomes the possibility that the University should be treated as a potential contributor in group (i) listed in subparagraph (h) below.

(d) Prognoses made for the period 1980/1981 show increased financial support from the Business Edition of the publication from 1980 onwards. Those prognoses show a need for financial support from the organizations of the United Nations system, excluding the above-mentioned support from the regular budget of the United Nations, of about \$450,000 for 1982 and \$420,000 for 1983 and 1984.

(e) JUNIC suggests that the organizations of the United Nations system could be divided in three groups in terms of involvement in development activities and size of their information and other relevant programmes. Organizations in each group would be invited to contribute on a voluntary basis to cover a percentage of the necessary support of the United Nations system.

(f) JUNIC, recalling ACC decision 1979/19, reaffirms the value of a journal within the United Nations system that covers the whole range of the system's development concerns and expresses the hope that, wherever considered possible and desirable, organizations of the United Nations system whose programmes have a direct bearing on world development or humanitarian issues, and which participate in the Joint Committee, could make voluntary contributions.

(g) JUNIC takes into consideration the different procedures in the various organizations which would be followed to decide on contributions to the publication and assumes that, if ACC endorses the proposal for predictable

voluntary contributions, those organizations which are willing to contribute will decide within a reasonable time-limit on the formalization and size of their contribution, keeping in mind ACC's recognition of the need for long-term financing.

(h) While each JUNIC member organization will make its own decision whether to contribute, and in what amount, JUNIC suggests the following grouping:

- (i) Participation in the first group could comprise the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations University, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Organizations in this group would be invited to supply some 65 per cent of the requested amount with grants, in most cases and though not implying an absolute ceiling, ranging from \$25,000 to \$80,000 per annum.
- (ii) The second group could comprise the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which would be invited to supply 25 per cent, with amounts ranging from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per annum.
- (iii) The third group could comprise the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, the World Food Council, the International Civil Aviation Agency, the Universal Postal Union, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Tourism Organization; the percentage for this group would be 10 per cent, with grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 per annum.

(i) Endorsement of this statement by JUNIC members implies no commitment by their respective organizations to contribute to the interagency financing proposal."

21. The ACC at its second regular session, 1980, by its decision 1980/13 reiterated the continuing need for long-term financing of the Development Forum by the United Nations and for supplementary support from the organizations of the system and urged Executive Heads of the organizations in a position to do so, to include an appropriate provision in their 1982-1983 budgets, taking into account the proposals of JUNIC contained in document ACC/1980/37.

/...

22. The continued and regular publication of the Development Forum in 1982 and beyond is contingent upon the creation of a sound financial base. The level of income that would be available to the Development Forum in 1982-1983 cannot at this juncture be assessed. The 1982-1983 budget estimates for the Development Forum will be prepared in the light of the provision that organizations of the system may make in their 1982-1983 budgets.

23. The amount of United Nations contributions that the General Assembly would be asked to approve will be established taking into account the level of contribution anticipated from other organizations, and in the light of any guidance the Assembly may wish to provide further to its decision, contained in resolution 34/182, that the United Nations participation in the production of Development Forum should be ensured.
