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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY AND THE AGED

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.3/35/L.28, as orally amended

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

1. At its 50th meeting on 7 November 1980 the Third Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.28, as orally amended. 1/
2. By operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, as amended, the General Assembly would call upon the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to enable the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in close co-operation with the specialized agencies and organizations concerned, to undertake all the necessary preparatory and follow-up activities for the World Assembly on the Elderly. The Secretary-General would like to draw attention to his report on the draft programme and arrangements for the World Assembly on the Elderly (A/35/130) and the related statement of administrative and financial implications (A/35/130/Add.1), where he has discussed in detail the arrangements for the World Assembly and his estimates of the resources required for that purpose.
3. By paragraph 2 of the draft resolution as amended, the General Assembly would adopt the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 1980/26. The Secretary-General recalls that a statement of programme budget implications (E/1980/C.2/L.7) was submitted to the Council for consideration in connexion with its resolution 1980/26 on this subject. The salient points of that statement are summarized below in paragraphs 4 through 9.

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1/ Operative paragraph 1 was deleted and the following paragraphs were renumbered accordingly. References in the present document are to the renumbered paragraphs. The reference to Add.1 in foot-note 1 of document A/C.3/35/L.28 was also eliminated.

4. The Economic and Social Council, by paragraph 1 of its resolution 1980/26, requested the Secretary-General to designate a full-time Secretary-General for the World Assembly on the Elderly. Should such an appointment be made, the Secretary-General believes that the appropriate grading would be at the Assistant Secretary-General level. While paragraph 1 of resolution 1980/26 calls for the appointment of a recognized expert on aging from outside the United Nations with experience in the United Nations system, the Secretary-General would be bound by the established policies of the Organization and would select the best available candidate regardless of the source. The post of Secretary-General of the World Assembly on the Elderly would need to be supported by one principal level General Service post (G-7 level), as well as by the staff already proposed in the initial statement of financial implications appearing in document A/35/130/Add.1.

5. By paragraph 2 of resolution 1980/26, the Economic and Social Council requests that every effort be made to meet the costs associated with the establishment of the position of Secretary-General of the World Assembly on the Elderly from existing and/or voluntary resources. The possibilities of accommodating these costs within existing resources have been examined. In this connexion, it is appropriate to recall that the requirements arising in respect of the convening of the World Assembly on the Elderly, which are presented in document A/35/130/Add.1, have already been formulated on the basis of absorbing costs to the maximum extent. Therefore, virtually no possibility exists for the accommodations of further costs within existing resources; hence those costs can be met only by such extrabudgetary funds as might become available. Therefore, should extrabudgetary resources be pledged in an amount sufficient to cover these costs, the Secretary-General would proceed to appoint a Secretary-General of the World Assembly on the Elderly.

6. The salary and common staff costs for an Assistant Secretary-General post and a G-7 post in Vienna would be as follows:

	<u>1981</u> \$	<u>1982</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Salaries and common staff costs			
Assistant Secretary-General	102,700	108,700	211,400
G-7	<u>36,300</u>	<u>38,200</u>	<u>74,500</u>
Grand total	<u>139,000</u>	<u>146,900</u>	<u>285,900</u>

7. The associated common services costs would be as detailed below:

	<u>1981</u> \$	<u>1982</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Accommodation			
Alterations	9,000	-	9,000
Maintenance services	900	1,000	1,900
Furniture and equipment	12,900	-	12,900
Carpeting	2,300	-	2,300
Communications	5,420	5,500	10,920
Office supplies	480	500	980
	<u>31,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>38,000</u>
Grand total	<u>31,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>38,000</u>

8. Effective exercise of the functions of the role of Secretary-General of the World Assembly on the Elderly would require that the incumbent undertake a certain number of official missions to establish liaison with Governments, the regional commissions and specialized agencies. The cost of such travels is estimated at \$16,000 for 1981 and \$12,000 for 1982.

9. The total requirements for funding by extrabudgetary resources in respect of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, as amended, whereby the General Assembly would adopt the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/26, may be summarized as follows:

	\$
Salaries and common staff costs	285,900
Common services costs	38,000
Official travel	28,000
	<u>351,900</u>
Total	<u>351,900</u>

10. In paragraph 4 of the draft resolution in document A/C.3/35/L.28, as amended, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the World Assembly on the Elderly and to inform Member States of the existence of the fund. Should the General Assembly adopt this resolution, the Secretary-General would take the necessary steps to comply with the request.

11. In paragraph 6 of the amended draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to launch a campaign as soon as possible, to establish an appropriate emblem for the World Assembly on the Elderly. The Secretary-General wishes to refer in this regard to paragraph 17 of document A/35/130/Add.1, in which he describes the step to be taken to establish a logo for the World Assembly. Necessary action would be undertaken if and as soon as the proposal contained in that document is approved by the General Assembly.

12. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.28, as amended, the financial implications arising for the regular budget would relate to both the 1980-1981 biennium and the 1982-1983 biennium but would be limited to that level of resources outlined in paragraph 43 of document A/35/130/Add.1. In 1981 this would amount to \$734,200, to be partially offset from income from staff assessment accruing to income section 1 of the budget in the amount of \$71,500.