



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/35/72
25 November 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 91 and 61 (k)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
ENVIRONMENT

International co-operation in the field of the environment

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/C.2/35/L.116

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

1. The Second Committee at its 46th meeting held on 20 November 1980 adopted the draft resolution in document A/C.2/35/L.116. The Committee had before it at that time a statement of administrative and financial implications in document A/C.2/35/L.121.
2. By paragraph 5 of the draft resolution in document A/C.2/35/L.116, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take the requisite steps to implement the recommendations of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the work of the United Nations system on interrelationships between resources, environment, people and development, as well as those put forward by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/49 of 23 July 1980. The Secretary-General is of the opinion that this would give rise to financial implications for the regular budget.
3. The recommendations referred to above follow up on previous actions by the Governing Council of UNEP and the General Assembly, particularly General Assembly resolution 3345 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, calling for "co-ordinated multidisciplinary research aimed at synthesizing, integrating and advancing existing knowledge on the relationships between population, resources, environment and development" in support of development efforts in the developing countries and of relevant work in the organizations of the United Nations system. They are also consistent with the provisions of the International Development Strategy

for the Third United Nations Development Decade (see A/34/464, annex), which call for these relationships to be taken into account in the process of development, for research on these interrelationships to be intensified and for bilateral and multilateral donors to provide assistance to developing countries in this regard.

4. The recommendations of the Governing Council of UNEP, which the General Assembly would endorse under paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, are based on the proposals of the High-level Expert Group on Interrelations, 1/ convened by the Executive Director of UNEP to (a) contribute to the development of an appropriate conceptual framework setting the broad parameters for further work at the national, regional and international levels concerned with these interrelationships; (b) identify issues requiring further analysis; and (c) define the elements of a system-wide effort in this respect. The Expert Group also elaborated proposals for action by UNEP in these areas. 2/

5. The arrangements recommended by the Governing Council, on the basis of recommendations by the Expert Group, comprise:

(a) The establishment by the Secretary-General of a voluntary fund to be drawn upon, when necessary, for the commissioning of specific activities concerned with interrelationships to be undertaken by United Nations bodies or at regional and national levels, particularly in developing countries;

(b) The provision of a capacity to exercise direction in respect of work on interrelationships in the office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, given his over-all mandate in the economic and social field, and the establishment of close linkages with system-wide interagency programming and the planning of integrated development;

(c) The establishment of suitable arrangements for interagency co-ordination and co-operation;

(d) The carrying out of multidisciplinary research on interrelationships at the regional level, to be co-ordinated by the regional commissions.

6. In recommending to the General Assembly consideration of these recommendations, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1980/49, emphasized that:

"Models for studying ... interrelationships should take due account of the specific requirements of different regions and countries and include the elaboration of a programme of work on interrelationships, which should be closely linked with the integrated system-wide interagency programming and planning and be placed under the direction of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, who should assume over-all responsibility for the co-ordination of the system-wide efforts".

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/35/25), annex II.

2/ Ibid., para. 13.

7. Pursuant to the provisions of the draft resolution that call on the Secretary-General "to take the requisite steps" for the implementation of the recommendations outlined above, and in line with the above provisions of Council resolution 1980/49, it would be the intention of the Director-General, in the first instance, to proceed during 1981 with the further elaboration of a programme of work, taking into account the substantive guidelines so far provided by the Expert Group, and in the light of the further recommendations to be formulated in this connexion by the Expert Group at its forthcoming meeting in January 1981. The specific tasks involved would, inter alia, include:

(a) Extensive consultations with, and an analysis of relevant activities being undertaken by, organizations of the United Nations system, including system-wide interagency programming and planning activities, with a view to identifying issues requiring further study in the context of such a work programme, as well as consultations with the regional commissions in order to ensure that regional research is integrated ab initio in the over-all programme of work and the initiation, if possible, of additional studies to serve as models for further work;

(b) The elaboration of proposals concerning suitable co-ordination arrangements;

(c) The formulation of any projects at the national, regional and international levels that may be initiated within the resources currently available to organizations or through the additional resources that may be made available through voluntary contributions (see para. 11 below).

8. Pending the elaboration of such a work programme, the Secretary-General is not in a position to formulate definite recommendations regarding the resources required to enable the Director-General to carry out the responsibilities referred to in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/49 and endorsed in the draft resolution before the General Assembly. The following requirements, therefore, relate exclusively to the tasks to be carried out during 1981 along the lines outlined above.

9. Every effort would be made to draw to the extent possible, for this purpose, on resources available in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and in other United Nations entities concerned, particularly, UNEP and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Additional resources would, however, be required to assist in co-ordinating and orienting the various inputs and contributions referred to above and in undertaking the required high-level consultations, and to provide the Director-General with the necessary expert advice in respect of the various tasks outlined in paragraph 7 above.

10. These additional requirements have been estimated at 24 work months of Professional staff services and 12 work months of secretarial services for 1981, it being understood that the long-term requirements of the Office of the Director-General and of other organizational entities within the United Nations for the performance of this work - to be determined in the light of the work programme referred to in paragraph 4 above - will be reviewed in the light of the experience

/...

acquired. Since the tasks outlined above would involve extensive consultations with, among others, specialized agencies and the regional commissions, it is estimated that a provision for additional travel funds would also be required. All efforts would be made to meet part of the above requirements by redeployment of savings and other uncommitted resources that can be released from the organizational entities concerned. Should this expectation be unfulfilled, the necessary resources would be requested in the context of the final performance report for the biennium 1980-1981. On this understanding, the net additional requirements, have been estimated as follows:

	\$
Temporary assistance <u>a/</u>	69,900
Travel	<u>8,000</u>
Total	<u><u>77,900</u></u>

a/ Calculated for indicative purposes at 12 work months of services at the D-1 level and 6 work months at the General Service level.

11. The proposal for the establishment of a voluntary fund, outlined in paragraph 5 (a) above, would be implemented by the Secretary-General within the existing arrangements for the establishment of trust funds and special accounts. Such special needs as might arise for the administration of the fund would be examined in the light of experience and should thus result in the identification of any need for revised arrangements. These needs would be considered on their own merits.

12. By paragraph 13, the General Assembly would decide to convene in 1982 a session of a special character, open to all States, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. Should the General Assembly adopt this proposal, financial implications would arise, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 15 of the draft resolution, under which the Assembly would call upon the Executive Director of UNEP to present to the Governing Council, *inter alia*, a report on the financial implications of the session. Strict interpretation of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and of financial regulation 13.1 of the United Nations would require the Secretary-General to provide a statement of financial implications to the current session of the General Assembly on the proposal to convene the session of a special character. However, in view of the fact that organizational details of the proposed session are yet to be determined, it is not possible to indicate with any degree of precision the level of resource requirements that would arise. Nevertheless, on the assumption that additional costs would be limited to meeting-servicing costs and that such a session might reasonably last five working days, it could be estimated for indicative purposes only that actual costs would relate to the provision of interpretation and documentation in the languages of the Governing Council (Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). These costs

are provisionally estimated at \$75,000. ^{3/} As these costs are tentative, and as they would not need to be incurred until 1982, no request for the provision of such funds will be made to this session of the General Assembly. However, it is the expectation of the Secretary-General that provision of the necessary resources will be sought at the thirty-sixth session in the context of the Assembly's review of the report of the Governing Council on its ninth session.

13. By paragraph 15, the General Assembly would invite the Executive Director of UNEP to proceed with the preparation of the above-mentioned session and to present to the Governing Council, at its ninth session, a comprehensive report on all matters relevant to the organization, agenda and financial implications of the session. In this context, the Secretary-General wishes to point out that, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, the Secretary-General would prepare statements of financial implications and the Executive Director of UNEP would circulate these. Additionally, it is the assumption of the Secretary-General that the invitation by the General Assembly to the Executive Director to proceed with preparations at this time will not involve the incurring of any financial implications before the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly reviews the relevant proposals to be included in the report of the ninth session of the UNEP Governing Council.

14. Should the General Assembly decide to adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/35/L.116, an additional appropriation of \$77,900 would be required under section 5A (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. An appropriation of \$20,100 under section 31, offset by an equal amount of income in section 1, would also be required. Conference-servicing costs would arise in 1982, but a firm basis for their estimation does not exist at present, as arrangements for the Conference are yet to be reviewed by the Governing Council of UNEP at its ninth session and by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

^{3/} In accordance with the estimate provided to the Governing Council at its eighth session by the Executive Director of UNEP (see UNEP/GC.8/2/Add.1).