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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Administrative and financial implications of the draft decision
contained in document A/C.2/35/L.120

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

1. At its 46th meeting on 20 November 1980, the Second Committee adopted the draft decision contained in document A/C.2/35/L.120.
2. Under the terms of the draft decision, the General Assembly would, inter alia:
 - (a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system: implication of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202 for the regional commissions (A/35/546);
 - (b) Endorse those immediate programme priorities for 1981 which the regional commissions have approved.
3. At the time of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/35/L.120, the Second Committee had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/35/L.93) issued in relation to an earlier version of the draft decision contained in document A/C.2/35/L.67. While the text of subparagraph (a) of that earlier version was identical to subparagraph (a) quoted above, under subparagraph (b) of A/C.2/35/L.67, the Second Committee would have endorsed the immediate programme priorities of the regional commissions set out in chapter 2 of the report contained in document A/35/546, deriving from their expanded responsibilities as elaborated in resolutions 32/197 and 33/202.

4. Prior to the adoption of the draft decision by the Second Committee, its Chairman made a statement. In that statement, the Chairman indicated that it was the understanding of the Committee that the Secretariat would review the proposals contained in the statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/35/L.93) from the point of view of their consistency with intergovernmental decisions at the regional level and would submit a revised statement to the Fifth Committee at its current session. This document is issued in accordance with the above understanding and following further consultations with the responsible officials in the regional commissions. It should be pointed out, however, that while the legislative decisions taken by regional intergovernmental bodies in relation to some of the priorities listed in chapter II of document A/35/546 are of a fairly general nature, it has always been recognized that the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions have the necessary authority to interpret the broad legislative mandates from the relevant legislative organs and to determine, in the light of their debates, what are the best-suited measures to implement them in the short term.

5. Indications of the immediate programme priorities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) are contained in paragraphs 83 to 85, 86, 87 to 93 and 94 to 97 of the Secretary-General's report (A/35/546), respectively. It is the Secretary-General's view that the implementation in 1981 of those priorities would require a strengthening of the regional commissions' capacity in the areas referred to in the above-mentioned paragraphs. In addition to an indication of the relevant legislative mandates justifying the immediate implementation of those priorities, the paragraphs below provide, for each of the regional commissions, a description of the ensuing financial implications.

Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

6. At its thirty-fifth session held in March 1979, ESCAP adopted resolution 193 (XXXV), "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 32/197 on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system", whereby inter alia it requested the Executive Secretary to identify the tasks which could be assumed by the Commission as a result of restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and to indicate the financial and manpower implications of those tasks.

7. At its thirty-sixth session held in March 1980, the Commission considered a progress report submitted by its secretariat on the streamlining of the programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981. ^{1/} With regard to the priorities in the programme of work, the Commission recognized the potential need to reassess the priority areas which it had established. It requested the secretariat and its Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives to review the priority areas of ESCAP in the light of the priorities that would emerge from the new strategy for

^{1/} E/ESCAP/183.

the 1980s and to suggest to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session possible adjustments or changes. With regard to intersecretariat co-operation and collaboration, the Commission noted the view of ILO that the arrangements between that organization and ESCAP regarding the exchange of information on their respective programmes of work had proved fruitful. Now that ESCAP was becoming increasingly involved with action-oriented activities, there was even greater need for closer consultations prior to finalization of their work programmes. 2/

8. The expanding tasks referred to in paragraph 84 of document A/35/546 are closely related to these mandates. It is estimated that their proper implementation from 1981 on would require the establishment of a new P-3 post in the Programme Co-ordination and Monitoring Office (one D-1, one P-5, two P-4, one P-3 and two local level posts) within the Office of the Executive Secretary. The incumbent would be required to:

(a) Keep under constant review the mandates given in resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and other relevant global fora as they relate to the work of the regional commissions;

(b) Prepare contributions to United Nations Headquarters for submission to relevant global forums as they relate to programme co-ordination and planning in economic and social sectors;

(c) Service the Commission and the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives in co-ordinating the Commission's work programme and planning process mechanism and the global exercise in the planning process and programme budgeting;

(d) Maintain close contact with programme co-ordinators within the United Nations Headquarters, other regional commissions and other bodies within the United Nations system for the establishment of desirable complementarity in work programmes and interregional co-operation.

It is further estimated that an additional \$5,000 in travel funds would be required in connexion with the establishment of this post.

Economic Commission for Latin America

9. The need for a strengthening of the role of ECLA in the promotion of co-operation among developing countries proposed in paragraph 86 (b) of the Secretary-General's report (A/35/546) was highlighted by resolution 387 (XVIII), "Co-operation among developing countries and among developing regions of different geographical areas," adopted by the Commission at its eighteenth session in April 1979. Under the terms of that resolution, the Commission inter alia requested the Executive Secretary to establish in the secretariat appropriate servicing machinery directly responsible for promotion, information and co-ordination

2/ E/1980/26, paras. 887 and 890.

activities related to technical and economic co-operation among developing countries. The Division of Operations has become the focal point in ECLA for the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the various measures recommended by the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (1976), the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (1978) and subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject. It is proposed to establish in that Division, which currently consists of one D-1, two P-4, one P-3 and three local level posts, an additional P-4 post in 1981 for a staff member who would be responsible for the promotion of all activities of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and the dissemination of information on co-operation potentials. An additional provision for travel in the amount of \$4,000 would be required in connexion with the establishment of that post.

Economic Commission for Africa

10. Paragraph 89 of the Secretary-General's report (A/35/546) refers to the expanded functions of ECA relating, inter alia, to the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional economic co-operation among developing countries, to the exercise of team leadership and the responsibility for intersectoral co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level, and to the strengthening of relations with organizations of the United Nations system. In its resolution 355 (XIV), "Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries," adopted in March 1979, the Commission:

"Recognizing the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for collective self-reliance and for the attainment of the New International Economic Order,

"Supporting the idea of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres becoming the focal point for the combined efforts at the subregional level of all United Nations agencies and other multilateral organizations engaged in economic and technical co-operation activities in Africa,

"Noting with appreciation the initiatives of the Executive Secretary in developing close links with the four other regional commissions to bring about economic and technical co-operation among developing countries of the various regions,"

...

"Appealed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the resources required to enable the Commission to build a cadre of effective and efficient support staff at the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres.

Appealed further to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary steps to eliminate the very fine line of distinction between economic co-operation and technical co-operation by reviewing the present institutional machinery designed to deal with these areas of activity."

/...

11. It is submitted that there is a close relationship between that resolution and ECA's requirements for the discharge of the expanded functions referred to above. It is estimated that in order to carry them out effectively in 1981, ECA would require the establishment of three new posts: one P-4 and one local level post in the Economic Co-operation Office which, with nine Professional (one D-1, two P-5, two P-4, two P-3 and two P-2/1) and five local level posts is responsible, inter alia, for co-ordinating the activities of the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in order to accommodate an economic affairs officer and a secretary respectively; and one P-3 post for a programme management officer in the Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office (one D-1, one P-5, one P-4, one P-3, two P-2/1 and four local level posts).

12. Under the general supervision of the Chief of the Economic Co-operation Division, the new economic affairs officer would act as a focal point within the Division for the co-ordination of the design, formulation and implementation of various projects on multinational co-operative arrangements. The new local level post is requested for a secretary. The new programme management officer would, under the immediate supervision of the Chief of the Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office assist the Economic Co-operation Office and the substantive divisions in all phases of projects relating to technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and the integration of women in development within Africa. The new staff member would also assist in the monitoring of the financial and administrative management of institution-building projects executed by ECA. It is estimated that in connexion with the establishment of the two above professional posts, additional appropriations for travel in the amount of \$5,000 and \$10,000 would be required by the Economic Co-operation Office and the Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office respectively for 1981.

Economic Commission for Western Asia

13. The growth in the functions of programme delivery monitoring and co-ordination referred to in paragraph 94 of the Secretary-General's report is linked to the increasing role of the regional commissions, spelled out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197, as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their regions, and their increased responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level. 3/ It should be recalled in that connexion that at its seventh session held in April 1980, the Commission adopted resolution 80 (VII) "The restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations" whereby ECWA inter alia called upon the Executive Secretary to pursue, in collaboration with other regional commissions, his consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view to obtaining the resources required for carrying out the activities already identified by the secretariat as resulting from the increased responsibilities of the Commission in the light of General Assembly resolution 32/197.

14. It is estimated that in order to discharge adequately in 1981 the functions described in paragraph 94 of the Secretary-General's report, ECWA would need the

3/ General Assembly resolution 32/197, annex, chap. IV, paras. 19 and 20.

addition of one officer at the P-2 level to its Programme Planning and Co-ordination Unit (one D-1, two P-4, one P-2/1 and three local level posts) in the Office of the Executive Secretary. Under the supervision of the Chief of the Unit, the incumbent would assist in:

(a) Planning and co-ordinating the implementation of resolutions emanating from the Commission and other legislative bodies of the United Nations;

(b) Co-ordinating the cross-organizational programme analysis;

(c) Maintaining the necessary records and contacts for co-operation and co-ordination between ECWA and regional development institutions, other United Nations organizations and the specialized agencies;

(d) Developing and maintaining necessary records for the monitoring of project implementation and resource allocation;

(e) Preparing correspondence and reports required in the discharge of the functions of the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Unit.

The travel fund requirements which would result from the establishment of this post are estimated at \$2,300.

SUMMARY

15. It is estimated that in order to implement the draft decision contained in document A/C.2/35/L.120, additional appropriations would be required in 1981 under sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the programme budget as follows:

	Established posts ^{a/}	Common staff costs	Travel	Furniture and equipment	Total	
	Posts	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Section 11 (ESCAP)	1 P-3	14,100	5,800	5,000	-	24,900
Section 12 (ECLA)	1 P-4	20,700	8,300	4,000	-	33,000
Section 13 (ECA)	1 P-4	18,200	7,300)			
	1 P-3	15,200	6,100)	15,000	5,000	72,800
	1 LL	4,300	1,700)			
Section 14 (ECWA)	1 P-2	11,500	3,500	2,300	-	17,300
					Total	148,000

^{a/} Delayed recruitment factor: 50 per cent for professional and 35 per cent for local level posts.

In addition, as a result of the establishment of two P-4, two P-3, one P-2 and one local level posts, an amount of \$22,100 would be required for staff assessment under section 31, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, "Income from staff assessment".
