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Agenda item 91

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Arabic language services

Note by the Secretariat

1. In operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/35/L.19, concerning Arabic language services, it is provided that the Assembly would decide "to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, no later than 1 January 1982". If this provision is adopted by the Assembly certain consequential changes, as of the date of its implementation, will be required in the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. These changes are indicated below.

Present text

VIII. LANGUAGES

Official and working languages

Rule 51

Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be both the official and the working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and its sub-committees. Arabic shall be both an official and a working language of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

New text

VIII. LANGUAGES

Official and working languages

Rule 51

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be both the official and the working languages of the General Assembly, its committees and its sub-committees.

Interpretation

Rule 52

Speeches made in any of the six languages of the General Assembly shall be interpreted into the other five languages, provided that interpretation from and into Arabic shall be made only in the Assembly and in its Main Committees.

Rule 53

Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the languages of the General Assembly. In this case, he shall himself provide for interpretation into one of the languages of the General Assembly or of the committee concerned. Interpretation into the other languages of the General Assembly or of the committee concerned by the interpreters of the Secretariat may be based on the interpretation given in the first such language.

Languages of verbatim and summary records

Rule 54

Verbatim or summary records shall be drawn up as soon as possible in the languages of the General Assembly, provided that such records shall be drawn up in Arabic only for the plenary meetings of the Assembly and for the meetings of the Main Committees.

Languages of the Journal of the United Nations

Rule 55

During the sessions of the General Assembly, the Journal of the United Nations shall be published in the languages of the Assembly.

Interpretation

Rule 52

Speeches made in any of the six languages of the General Assembly shall be interpreted into the other five languages.

Rule 53

(No change required)

Languages of verbatim and summary records

Rule 54

Verbatim or summary records shall be drawn up as soon as possible in the languages of the General Assembly.

Languages of the Journal of the United Nations

Rule 55

(No change required)

Languages of resolutions and other documents

Rule 56

All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the languages of the General Assembly, provided that publication in Arabic of such documents shall be limited to those of the Assembly and its Main Committees.

Publications in languages other than the languages of the General Assembly

Rule 57

Documents of the General Assembly, its committees and its sub-committees shall, if the Assembly so decides, be published in any language other than the languages of the Assembly or of the committee concerned.

Languages of resolutions and other documents

Rule 56

All resolutions and other documents shall be published in the languages of the General Assembly.

Publications in languages other than the languages of the General Assembly

Rule 57

(No change required)

2. If the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/35/L.19 is adopted, it is suggested that the General Assembly should, at its current session, adopt the rules as revised above, on the understanding that the new texts will be given effect as of the date of the implementation of operative paragraph 1 of the resolution. Corresponding changes in the rules of subsidiary organs of the Assembly that have adopted their own rules of procedure will need to be made by the organs concerned.
3. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, if adopted, contains requests addressed to the Security Council and to the Economic and Social Council regarding the use of Arabic. In communicating these requests to the principal organs concerned the Secretary-General will draw their attention to any consequential changes required in their rules of procedure.
