



**Proposed programme budget
for the biennium 1996-1997***

Part IV International cooperation for development

**Section 7B
Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and
development**

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* The present document contains section 7B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1)*.



Section 7B

Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

Overview

- 7B.1 The legislative authority for the activities under this section is derived from programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised (A/47/6/Rev.1). The activities fall under one of five overall priorities of the medium-term plan. The activities will focus on implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development in Africa in the 1990s. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990, the Secretary-General was entrusted with responsibilities to follow up, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the New Agenda. The activities under this heading also relate to implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Paris, 1990). The Secretary-General will ensure, in close cooperation with UNCTAD, the full mobilization and coordination of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the purpose of implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action. He will also provide overall leadership and political support to UNCTAD in efforts to reach out to the international community for the successful implementation of the Programme.
- 7B.2 It will be recalled that in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly, acting upon the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirtieth session, in 1990, established a separate programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development. In the same resolution, the Assembly designated the programme as one of the five overall priorities of the medium-term plan. In its resolution 46/185 B of 20 December 1991 on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the Assembly, acting upon the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, approved the proposal to establish a separate, identifiable and visible unit for Africa within the former Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and also approved the proposal that the implementation of a number of specific activities under the programme be assigned to ECA and the Department of Public Information. Initially, the Office of the Director-General provided overall coordination and leadership. Following the restructuring of the Secretariat, that responsibility is now assumed by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. ECA exercises team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level in the implementation of the programme. The Department of Public Information is responsible for a special programme highlighting Africa's economic concerns.
- 7B.3 Following the adoption in December 1991 of the New Agenda, contained in annex II to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, programme 45 was revised to integrate fully all elements of the New Agenda. The broad priority of the programme in the context of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, was further reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994.
- 7B.4 A new dimension to the United Nations responsibilities in coordinating the efforts of the international community in the development of Africa has been added in the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of

23 December 1992 on programme planning. In the context of its review of the draft framework for a revised System-wide Plan of Action at its thirty-fourth session, in May 1994, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, *inter alia*, underscored the need for urgent and concerted action to address the grave economic situation in Africa (see A/49/16 (Part I)). In September 1994, the Committee approved the revised System-wide Plan of Action (see *ibid.*, part II).

- 7B.5 Activities under the programme are presented in a separate section pursuant to resolution 49/219, section (V), of 23 December 1994, whereby the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft budget section containing his proposals for the implementation during the biennium 1996-1997 of activities mandated under programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme of work

Table 7B.1 Summary by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) Regular budget

Object of expenditure	1992-1993 expenditures	1994-1995 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1996-1997 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	1 491.2	2 260.2	277.5	12.2	2 537.7	153.7	2 691.4
Other staff costs	130.2	269.6	25.3	9.3	294.9	25.1	320.0
Consultants and experts	61.4	426.4	—	—	426.4	23.2	449.6
Travel	106.2	200.3	(2.3)	(1.1)	198.0	14.9	212.9
Contractual services	157.7	275.3	20.0	7.2	295.3	14.2	309.5
General operating expenses	10.7	15.2	—	—	15.2	0.8	16.0
Supplies and materials	15.3	20.1	—	—	20.1	0.9	21.0
Total	1 972.7	3 467.1	320.5	9.2	3 787.6	232.8	4 020.4

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

	1992-1993 expendi- tures	1994-1995 estimates	Source of funds	1996-1997 estimates
			(a) Services in support of:	
			(i) United Nations organizations	—
			(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
Total (a)	—	—		—
			(b) Substantive activities	
		250.0	Trust Fund for Support of the Implementation of the New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s and the Tokyo Declaration on African Development	350.0
	435.3	302.1	Trust Fund for Information Support for African Economic Recovery and Development	228.1
Total (b)	435.3	552.1		578.1
			(c) Operational projects	—
Total (c)	—	—		—
Total	435.3	552.1		578.1
Total (1) and (2)	2 408.0	4 019.2		4 598.5

Table 7B.2 Post requirements

Programme: Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

	Established posts		Temporary posts				Total	
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources			
	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997	1994-1995	1996-1997
Professional category and above								
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
P-4/3	3	5	—	—	1	1	4	6
Total	8	10	—	—	1	1	9	11
General Service category								
Principal level	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other levels	4	5	—	—	—	—	4	5
Total	5	6	—	—	—	—	5	6
Grand total	13	16	—	—	1	1	14	17

7B.6 Distribution of the regular budget requirements by subprogramme and implementing unit is detailed in the table below:

<i>Structure of programme 45</i>	<i>Implementing unit</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Other objects of expenditure (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	<i>Distribution of resources (percentage)</i>
Subprogramme 1. Mobilization of resources	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	One D-2, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4, two P-3, four General Service	574.0	58.0
Subprogramme 2. Monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects	Economic Commission for Africa	One P-5, one P-3	254.2	15.2
Subprogramme 3. The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa	Department of Public Information	One P-5, one P-3, two General Service	421.7	26.8
Total		Ten Professional, six General Service	1 249.9	100.0

7B.7 During the biennium the activities under the programme will be aimed at assisting the Secretary-General to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to him to follow up, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the New Agenda, and to coordinate the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action. Particular emphasis will continue to be placed on the mobilization of financial resources for the continent and highlighting new issues on Africa's economic and social development.

7B.8 The activities under subprogramme 1 of this section will be implemented by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. That Office was established in response to a recommendation by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, in the course of the restructuring of the Secretariat during the biennium 1992-1993, with a view to strengthening the institutional structure for the programme. The Office is headed by a Secretariat official at the D-2 level who reports to the Head of the Department. This arrangement provides, through the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, effective high-level leadership and coordination of the activities within the United Nations system, including regional commissions, UNDP and other programmes, funds and agencies of the system and the Bretton Woods institutions.

7B.9 In discharging their responsibilities, the Under-Secretary-General and the Special Coordinator will work closely with ECA and the Department of Public Information, which are responsible for implementation of the activities described below under subprogrammes 2 and 3, respectively.

Subprogramme 1

Mobilization of resources

7B.10 During the biennium 1994-1995, the Office of the Special Coordinator, under the overall supervision of the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, has continued to provide policy advice and leadership on African development issues. The activities of the Office focused,

in particular, on promoting the inclusion of the priorities of the New Agenda in major international development policies and strategies; coordinating responses by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels, encouraging the international community to translate its commitment into concrete actions, particularly regarding increased financial flows to assist Africa; providing the necessary support for intergovernmental deliberations on African economic recovery and development; providing assistance and support in the organization, preparation, reporting and follow-up of ad hoc group meetings such as the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development and inter-institutional meetings, such as the OAU/United Nations system meetings; and establishing innovative and effective working relations with non-governmental organizations concerned with African economic recovery and development. Within the terms of its mandate the Office also carried out an evaluation of the follow-up to the Tokyo Declaration adopted by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, in accordance with resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994; and organized a number of workshops/round-table conferences on the priority elements of the New Agenda and on financial intermediation and mobilization of domestic resources for the development of the informal and private sectors in Africa.

- 7B.11 In the biennium 1996-1997, the activities under this subprogramme will concentrate on providing effective substantive support to the intergovernmental bodies, including the ad hoc mechanisms for the mid-term review of the New Agenda. They will also include follow-up to the consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda by the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1995, the in-depth evaluation of programme 45 by the Joint Inspection Unit and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in 1996, and the evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action. Steps will be taken to highlight the African development situation through the publication of *Comprehensive Overview of Africa*. In close cooperation with UNCTAD, increased efforts for the full mobilization and coordination of the United Nations system for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries will also continue.

Activities

1. *International cooperation*

External relations. Cooperation with international, regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on a wide range of issues related to the African economic situation, recovery and development. That would include, *inter alia*, substantive discussions, policy advice, information and data collection, participation in and contribution to meetings, workshops, seminars, symposia and conferences addressing Africa's concerns such as the meetings of the OAU Council of Ministers and summits of Heads of State and Government, the OAU/United Nations annual meetings, the Annual Assembly of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank, the Annual Consultative Meeting of SADC; support to consultations of Member States, United Nations organizations and relevant financial institutions, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, FAO, UNIDO, UNDP and the Common Fund for Commodities on the issues relating to the diversification of African economies; and contribution to four meetings of the Programme Committee overseeing the implementation of the Tokyo Declaration on African Development.

2. *Parliamentary services*

(a) *Parliamentary documents*

- (i) Three reports to the General Assembly (i) on the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda and the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development;
 - (ii) Two reports to the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action and the second revision to it;
- (b) *Substantive services.* Substantive support to the plenary of the General Assembly for open-ended consultations on African development issues such as the establishment of a diversification facility for Africa's commodities and to the ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the mid-term review of the New Agenda;

- (c) *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work.* Four meetings of the Secretary-General's Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development and assistance to the Panel, including the preparation of its reports and about 12 discussion papers on various subjects for consideration by the Panel; and one expert consultation meeting on South-South cooperation (in cooperation with UNCTAD and UNDP).

3. *Published material*

- (a) *Four recurrent publications.* *Comprehensive Overview of Africa*; update of the Secretary-General's report on financial resource flows to Africa; and an annual update on African debt;
- (b) *Technical material.* A data bank on critical development issues in African countries; compilation of brief country profiles; and information data on issues under the subprogramme taken up by international and non-governmental organizations.

4. *Information material and services*

Annual booklet on the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development; briefing notes to delegations on emerging and current issues such as the results of the Uruguay Round of negotiations for Africa, diversification of Africa's commodities, financial intermediation systems and practices; and press releases and articles in newspapers and magazines prepared in collaboration with the Department of Public Information.

5. *Operational activities*

Preparation and organization in cooperation with ECA and other regional organizations of (a) subregional workshops on the implementation of the New Agenda and the operationalization of the principles of the Tokyo Declaration; (b) the second meeting of the Asia-Africa forum; and (c) a one-day annual seminar on issues of poverty alleviation through informal sector development and investment in human resources, especially entrepreneurial development.

6. *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*

Contribution to activities of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development and its working group, including preparation of reports; participation in and contribution to the annual meeting on cooperation between OAU and the United Nations system; liaison with relevant specialized agencies and programmes on the implementation of the System-wide Plan for Africa; and coordination within the United Nations system of the monitoring and review of the implementation of the Tokyo Declaration.

Subprogramme 2

Monitoring, assessment, and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects

- 7B.12 During the biennium 1994-1995, the subprogramme addressed the issues of coordination and harmonization at the regional level of the contributions of various United Nations organizations to the implementation of the New Agenda, in the framework of activities of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development. It has also focused on the monitoring of and follow-up to the achievements by African countries in the implementation of the New Agenda and the evolution of key factors pertaining to African economic recovery and development, including the resource aspects, and debt and commodity issues.
- 7B.13 In the biennium 1996-1997, the thrust of the subprogramme will be in further strengthening system-wide and regional consultations with a view to operationalizing the United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, supporting and contributing to the preparation of the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda, and monitoring and assessing the support of

the international community to African economic recovery and development. Special attention will be accorded to the needs of the least developed countries in Africa.

Activities

1. *International cooperation*

External relations. Cooperation with African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of the New Agenda and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

2. *Parliamentary services*

Parliamentary documents. Two reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers on the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda and the outcome of the Asia-Africa forum on exchange of experience.

3. *Published materials*

Non-recurrent publication. Analysis and assessment of technical assistance to African countries.

4. *Operational activities*

Advisory services on the monitoring of the implementation of the New Agenda; and contribution in the organization of (a) subregional workshops on the implementation of the New Agenda; (b) the second meeting of the Asia-Africa forum; and (c) an annual one-day seminar on issues of poverty alleviation through informal sector development and investment in human resources, especially entrepreneurial development.

5. *Coordination, harmonization and liaison*

Preparation of and substantive contribution to activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development (four meetings) and its working group (five meetings).

Subprogramme 3

The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa

7B.14 During the biennium 1994-1995 activities have continued to highlight the critical situation in Africa as a major feature of the ongoing international agenda by disseminating information materials for the purpose of increasing awareness of the situation in the continent. The publication of the quarterly periodical *Africa Recovery* and other information materials continued and efforts were made to maintain liaison with non-donor target groups, such as parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, media representatives, trade unions and academic institutions in order to enlist support for actions that were being undertaken or that needed to be undertaken.

7B.15 In the biennium 1996-1997 emphasis will continue to be placed on raising global awareness of the situation in Africa and on actions needed by Africa and the international community to revive the economic situation of the continent. Actions taken by the international community and progress achieved in implementation of the New Agenda will also be highlighted.

Activities

1. *Published material*

Eight issues of the recurrent publication *Africa Recovery*.

2. *Information material and services*

Information kit on progress made in the New Agenda to be issued in connection with the mid-term review of the New Agenda in 1996; media liaison and speaking engagements relating to the United Nations

concerns and actions affecting African development; and briefing papers and notes on specific issues of African economies.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

- 7B.16 In addition to the existing resources, two new P-3 posts are proposed to be established as follows:
- (a) One P-3 post would be for a Programme Officer to strengthen the coordinating capacity of the Office of the Special Coordinator on inter-agency issues regarding African development;
 - (b) One P-3 post would be for an Economic Affairs Officer at ECA in order to strengthen the capacity of the Commission in providing substantive support to the Inter-Agency Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development in the context of implementation of subprogramme 2. The incumbent would be responsible for research and analysis of the data and other information on regional developments and for preparation of reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers, and would also assist the Secretary of the Inter-Agency Task Force in the substantive servicing of the meetings of the Task Force and its working group.
- 7B.17 It is also proposed to redeploy one General Service post to the Office of the Special Coordinator from the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (section 7A) in order to strengthen secretarial support to the Office.

Other staff costs

- 7B.18 A provision in the amount of \$294,900, including a resource growth of \$25,300, is proposed under this heading, broken down as follows:
- (a) An amount of \$192,700, including a resource growth of \$30,000, is proposed under general temporary assistance for the Office of the Special Coordinator (\$59,600) and ECA (\$133,100) to cope with additional workload during the preparation of the mid-term review of the New Agenda in 1996 at the global and regional levels;
 - (b) An amount of \$102,200, reflecting a negative growth of \$4,700, would be required under external expertise for research, writing and design of information material in relation to the publication of *Africa Recovery* by the Department of Public Information.

Consultants and experts

- 7B.19 The estimated requirements (\$426,400) relate to expert advice and specialized assistance required for the implementation of subprogrammes 1 and 2, including \$260,900 under consultants and \$165,500 for holding the expert group meetings listed under subprogramme 1.

Travel

- 7B.20 The estimated requirements (\$198,000) relate to travel of the Special Coordinator, his staff and the ECA and Department of Public Information staff in connection with consultations and participation in inter-agency and other meetings and also for collection of data and information required under the programme of work.

Contractual services

- 7B.21 The estimated requirements of \$295,300 cover the costs of translation, printing and other production costs of the quarterly periodical *Africa Recovery*, production of other recurrent publications and contractual translation of documents required for the meetings under the work programme to be held outside established United Nations locations.

General operating expenses and supplies and materials

- 7B.22 The estimated requirements of \$35,300 relate to the cost of freight and other services in connection with the production of *Africa Recovery*, and supplies in relation to information activities under the programme.