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Agenda items 91 and 78

### PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1

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

1. At its 57th meeting, the Third Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1. It had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.3/35/L.56).
2. Under paragraph 3 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1 the General Assembly would approve the report of the Secretary-General (A/35/606) calling for an international conference to mobilize assistance for refugees in Africa, as well as the measures proposed for a concerted programme of information and publicity by the relevant bodies of the United Nations system in support of the Conference.
3. Under paragraph 4 of the same draft resolution the Assembly would request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, an international conference at the ministerial level on assistance to refugees in Africa at Geneva, Switzerland, from 9 to 10 April 1981.
4. Under paragraph 5 of the draft resolution the Assembly would request further the Secretary-General in the process of preparing for the Conference, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to assist the concerned African countries in identifying priorities and preparing necessary documents and programmes for assistance to African refugees.

5. Under paragraph 6 it would authorize the Secretary-General to meet the expenses for the organization of the Conference under the regular budget of the Secretariat.

6. In his report to the General Assembly, submitted in accordance with the request contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/55, the Secretary-General had recommended that:

(a) the objectives of the Conference should be:

- (i) to focus public attention on the plight of refugees in Africa;
- (ii) to mobilize additional resources for refugee programmes in Africa;
- (iii) to assist countries of asylum, adversely affected by the large-scale presence of refugees, to obtain international assistance for projects aimed at strengthening the ability of those countries to carry the extra burden placed on their services and facilities;

(b) that the participants should be at a ministerial level and the following States should be invited:

- (i) All States members of OAU;
- (ii) All States members of the Economic and Social Council;
- (iii) All other States which are traditional donors to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees programmes for refugees in Africa;
- (iv) All other States proposed by OAU;

(c) Observers to the Conference should include States Members of the United Nations not covered by subparagraph (b) above, all agencies, organizations and programmes within the United Nations system directly involved in refugee programmes in Africa, African liberation movements recognized by OAU and the United Nations intergovernmental organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations under the auspices of umbrella agencies;

(d) The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would provide the secretariat for the Conference, as well as other services and arrangements connected with its organization and documentation, and publicity.

The Secretary-General, therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1, would proceed with the organization of the conference along those lines.

7. The preparatory work for the conference would be conducted in the light of the following considerations:

(a) Popular support including favourable world opinion for the conference and its goals constitutes both a necessary ingredient in the preparations for the conference as well as an important objective in itself;

(b) In order to heighten public awareness of the gravity of the refugee problem in Africa, the "adequate publicity programme", called for in the relevant resolutions mentioned herein, must of necessity include, inter alia, an efficient use of mass media and the services of experts in this field;

(c) Such activities will benefit greatly from the enhancement that participation by well-known personalities, including journalists, will provide by their active involvement in the live publicity-oriented events planned in such a way as to focus on selected and crucial aspects of the refugee problem in Africa;

(d) With respect to refugees in Africa, a proper and meaningful identification of country priorities must be undertaken within the framework of short, medium and long-term prospectives. Such an exercise must be supported by "in-the-field" feasibility studies and by information from relevant officials in the countries concerned;

(e) It is expected therefore that the conference will place emphasis on the categories of assistance leading to long-term integration including infrastructural support. Hence, the formulation of programmes notably in such specialized areas such as health, sanitation and nutrition, will be of special significance.

8. In view of the above it is envisaged that the preparatory process leading to the conference would include activities as follows:

(a) Joint substantive missions

The joint missions would comprise representatives of the Secretary-General, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They would, for periods not longer than 10 days, visit groups of potential donors. They would bring to the attention of countries at the highest level, the objectives of the conference with a view to mobilizing necessary support.

(b) Modality missions

These missions would be technical in nature and conducted at the working level in traditional donor countries. They would be concerned with the details and substance of projects related to the conference objectives.

(c) Programming missions

These missions would be undertaken in several African countries affected by refugee situations with a view to formulating, in the light of the considerations mentioned in subparagraphs 6 (d) and 6 (e) above, the programmes of assistance referred to in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution. It is anticipated that in the case of highly specialized projects, the advice of consultants would be required.

(d) Public information

The coverage of the problem of African refugees in the context of the ongoing public information programmes of both the United Nations and of the Office of the High Commissioner, would be supplemented by the following:

- (i) Specialized written material such as press releases, country fact sheets, posters, etc.
- (ii) Radio and television productions and films
- (iii) A press encounter on refugee situations to which international journalists will be invited
- (iv) A roundtable of prominent international personalities to be convened at Geneva immediately before the Conference. This would be a "media event", focusing on African refugee problems; it would conclude with an appeal to the international community to donate generously at the conference and support its objectives. World famous personalities would be invited to ensure that wide publicity is given to this event.

9. It has been estimated that the total requirements arising from the implementation of the draft resolution along the lines described in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above would be the following:

	<u>United States dollars</u>	
	<u>Full cost requirements</u>	<u>Net requirements</u> <sup>1/</sup>
<b>A. <u>Conference secretariat:</u></b>		
(i) Six months of salaries and common staff costs of one D-1, one P-5, two P-4, two P-2, 5 G/S	278,400	146,300 <sup>2/</sup>
(ii) Overtime	8,900	3,600
Subtotal A:	<u>287,300</u>	<u>149,900</u>
<b>B. <u>Preparatory phase</u></b>		
(i) Joint substantive missions (Staff travel and subsistence)	33,600	33,600
(ii) Modality missions (Staff travel and subsistence)	10,000	10,000

	<u>United States dollars</u>	
	<u>Full cost requirements</u>	<u>Net requirements <sup>1/</sup></u>
(iii) Programming missions (Staff travel and subsistence)	16 000	-
(iv) Consultant fees including travel	31 900	15 000
Subtotal B:	<u>91 500</u>	<u>58 600</u>
C. <u>Information and publicity</u>		
(i) Designing and printing of education and publicity material (contractual services)	80 000	50 000
(ii) Radio programmes (contractual services)	20 000	10 000
(iii) Short films and TV production (contractual services)	100 000	70 000
(iv) Press encounter for journalists (Participants' travel and subsistence)	50 000	50 000
(v) Roundtable (Participants' travel and subsistence)	20 000	20 000
Subtotal C:	<u>270 000</u>	<u>200 000</u>
D. <u>Conference</u>		
(i) Travel of representatives of national liberation movements recognized by the OAU	8 700	8 700
Subtotal D:	<u>8 700</u>	<u>8 700</u>
E. <u>General operating expenditures and supplies</u>	45 000	45 000
Grand total:	<u><u>702 600</u></u>	<u><u>432 200</u></u>

<sup>1/</sup> After deduction from the full cost requirements of the portion which the Secretary-General believes can be met from existing resources.

<sup>2/</sup> Covering one P-5, one P-4, one P-2 and three G/S.

10. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.51/Rev.1, an additional appropriation of \$432,200 would be required under section 21, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981. The breakdown of these costs by object of expenditures would be as follows:

	<u>United States dollars</u>
Temporary assistance	146,300
Overtime	3,600
Consultant fees and travel	15,000
Travel of representatives and participants to meetings	78,700
Travel of staff to meetings	43,600
Public information contracts	130,000
General operating expenditures	<u>15,000</u>
Total:	<u><u>432,200</u></u>

Furthermore, an appropriation of \$30,800 would be required under section 31, staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under Income Section 1.

11. As regards conference servicing requirements, estimated on a full-cost basis at \$53,000, these will be considered in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly. Details of those costs are provided in the annex to the present document.

ANNEX

Summary of conference servicing requirements

International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa  
(Geneva, 9-10 April 1980)

	<u>Total Workload</u>	<u>Daily rate</u> \$	\$	<u>Total</u> \$
<u>Interpretation</u>				
Salaries	74	213	15 762	<u>15 762</u>
<u>Documentation</u>				
Pre-session				
Salaries - Translation	67	185	12 395	
Revision	22	210	4 620	
Typing	84	69	<u>5 796</u>	<u>22 811</u>
In-session				
Salaries - Revision	1	210	210	
Typing	1	69	<u>69</u>	<u>279</u>
Post-session				
Salaries - Translation	6	185	1 110	
Revision	3	210	630	
Typing	7	69	<u>483</u>	<u>2 223</u>
Summaries for rapporteur				
Salaries - Translation	17	185	3 145	
Revision	3	210	630	
Typing	17	69	<u>1 173</u>	<u>4 948</u>

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	<u>Total Workload</u>	<u>Daily rate</u> \$	\$	<u>Total</u> \$
<u>Reproduction</u>	45	45	2 025	<u>2 025</u>
<u>Distribution</u>	28	45	1 260	<u>1 260</u>
<u>Other Conference staff</u>				
Conference officer	6	77	462	
Meeting-room attendants	20	45	900	
Technicians: interpretation	4	45	180	
sound recording	4	45	180	
Messengers	2	45	90	
Guards	12	45	540	
Cleaners	12	24	288	<u>2 640</u>
<u>Bilingual secretaries</u>	10	77		<u>770</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>				<u><u>52 718</u></u>