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REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF STATES PARTIES TO UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.50/Rev.1

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

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Operative paragraphs 5 to 9, 12, 13 and 15 of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.50/Rev.1 address the following requests to the Secretary General:

(a) To consider, as a matter of priority, the finalization of the detailed reporting manual to assist States parties in the fulfilment of their reporting obligations (operative para. 5);

(b) To prepare, as requested by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a report showing the extent and nature of any overlapping of issues dealt with in the international human rights treaties, with a view to reducing, as appropriate, duplication in the supervisory bodies of issues raised with respect to any given State party (operative para. 6);

(c) To provide from official United Nations sources a compilation of statistics relevant to the consideration by the treaty bodies of the reports of States parties (operative para. 7);

(d) To strengthen co-ordination between the Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, with reference to the implementation of human rights treaties and servicing treaty bodies (operative para. 8);

(e) To arrange, within existing resources and priorities of the programme of advisory services, further training courses for those countries experiencing the most serious difficulties in meeting reporting obligations under international instruments (operative para. 9);

(f) To consider possibilities for strengthening collection procedures and making them more effective (operative para. 12);

(g) To convey to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of chairpersons together with any views and comments he may have thereon (operative para. 13);

(h) To consider entrusting, within existing resources, an independent expert with the task of preparing a study on possible long-term approaches to the supervision of new instruments on human rights, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of chairpersons and relevant materials, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session; and to review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various human rights treaty bodies (operative paras. 15 (a) and (b)).

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the approved programme of work

2. The activities proposed in the draft resolution would fall under chapter 6, programme: Centre for Human Rights, subprogramme 1, Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures, the strategy of which is described in paragraph 6.22 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 1/ as extended through 1991. 2/

3. The activities are particularly relevant to section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 3/ programme element 1.1, Implementing regular supervisory procedures, of subprogramme 1, which constitutes the highest priority element in the human rights programme.

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.50/Rev.1, it is envisaged that the requests addressed to the Secretary-General therein would be implemented during 1989. In particular, should resources become available, an independent expert would be engaged to prepare the study requested in operative paragraph 15 (a); the reporting manual requested in operative paragraph 5 would be completed by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights; training courses would be conducted under the advisory services programme, and the staff of the Centre for Human Rights would produce a report on overlapping issues in the human rights treaties and a compilation of relevant statistics for the treaty bodies.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1988-1989

5. Three outputs would have to be added to the text of section 23 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as follows:

Subprogramme 1. Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures

1.1 Implementing regular supervisory procedures

Output:

(xxv) Report on the extent and nature of overlapping issues in the international human rights treaties (first quarter 1989);

(xxvi) Compilation of statistics relevant to the consideration by the treaty bodies of the reports of States parties (second quarter 1989);

(xxvii) Study on possible long-term approaches to the supervision of new instruments on human rights (fourth quarter 1989).

E. Additional requirements at full cost

6. It is estimated that \$22,900 would be required to retain the services of an independent expert to prepare the study requested in operative paragraph 15 (a) of the draft resolution, including provision for five days of consultations with the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva.

F. Potential for absorption

7. The resources already appropriated under section 23 by the General Assembly at its forty-second session are fully committed; however, should savings become available during 1989, an independent expert would be hired to produce the study requested in operative paragraph 15 (a).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1) and ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1).

2/ A/43/6 and Corr.1.

3/ A/42/6 (Sect. 23).
