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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

Revised estimates under section 19, United Nations  
Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS)

Resources for the work programme at the regional level

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on resources for the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at the regional level (A/C.5/36/15). In it he submits revised estimates in the amount of \$1,029,600 (\$733,800 in salaries and \$295,800 for common staff costs) under section 19 of the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 and \$196,200 under section 31, staff assessment (the latter offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1) for a total of eight established posts at the Professional level and four at the local level in the Economic Commissions for Africa, Latin America and Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (one P-4, one P-3 and one local level post each). The Secretary-General states in paragraph 5 of his report that his request is consistent with resolution 4/5 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourth session in May 1981. 1/

2. In paragraphs 2 and 3 of his report, the Secretary-General recalls that, following adoption of resolution 34/229, the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session,  
Supplement No. 8 (A/36/8), annex I, p. 72. Operative paragraph 5 of  
resolution 4/5 read as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session that the temporary assistance approved for deployment to the regions for 1981 be converted into established posts as of 1982."

and thirty-fifth sessions appropriated resources totalling \$140,000 for 1980 and \$330,000 for 1981 to provide for these 12 posts on a temporary assistance basis. The Secretary-General also recalls the factors which led the Advisory Committee to recommend against the establishment on a permanent basis of these posts. 2/

3. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 4 that seven of the temporary Professional posts were filled between November 1980 and February 1981 and that the eighth was filled in the middle of 1981. In section II, paragraphs 7 to 35 of his report the Secretary-General provides a description of "the activities of the UNCHS staff deployed to the regions, including the work accomplished as at mid-1981, the specific outputs expected by the end of 1981, the activities and outputs proposed in 1982-1983 and the relationship of these activities to both the over-all work programme of UNCHS and to the activities of the regional commissions" (ibid., para. 6). In annex I to his report he gives a breakdown, in work-months, of the proposed deployment of the additional resources to subprogrammes 1 to 5 3/ of the work programme of the Centre for 1982-1983. Annex II of the report contains a summary of the regular-budget and extrabudgetary staffing resources that will be available to the regional commissions for the implementation of their human settlements programmes in 1982-1983.

4. In the opinion of the Secretary-General the deployment of the temporary staffing resources of UNCHS to the regions "has enabled the Centre to execute the regional component of the Centre's work programme at the least cost and with the most significant results" (ibid., para. 40); and "has also served as an effective means for harmonizing the respective work programmes and medium-term plans of UNCHS and the regional commissions" (ibid., para. 41). According to the Secretary-General, the experience gained in late 1980 and 1981 provides "a sufficient basis on which to make judgements as to the need for converting these temporary staffing resources into established posts" (ibid., para. 4).

5. During its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal, the Advisory Committee noted instances of possible duplication in the work to be carried out by the UNCHS staff deployed to the regions and those of the regional commissions themselves. For example, ESCAP's Human Settlements programme (09) includes programme elements 09.01.02 "Identification of regional policy issues" and 09.01.04 "Development of regional guidelines on formulation of settlement policies". 4/ These programme elements seem to cover the same ground as work being undertaken by the UNCHS staff deployed to ESCAP in connexion with the regional component of subprogramme 1 "Settlement policies and strategies" of UNCHS's global work programme as described in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/36/15). The representatives of the Secretary-General

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2/ Ibid., Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/35/7/Add.1-32), document A/35/7/Add.6, paras. 4 and 5.

3/ Settlement policies and strategies; Settlements planning; Shelter infrastructure and services; Land-use policies; and Public participation.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 12 (E/1981/52), p. 119.

informed the Advisory Committee that this and other apparent instances of duplication between the work programmes of UNCHS and the regional commissions had been the subject of consultations between the organizations concerned, as a result of which the regional commissions amended their respective Human Settlements programmes in order to eliminate such overlaps. Thus ESCAP's Human Settlements programme as presented in section 11 of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 5/ did not contain the programme elements referred to above. The representatives of the Secretary-General stated further that as the administrative and substantive framework for the deployment of UNCHS staff to the regions (described in section III, paras. 36 to 39 of the Secretary-General's report - ibid.) provided, inter alia, for the day-to-day supervision of the deployed UNCHS staff by the appropriate section chiefs in the respective regional commissions, the possibility for duplication of work was further reduced.

6. In its consideration of the request by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/36/15, the Advisory Committee recalled that the Secretary-General's programme budget proposals for 1982-1983 exclude the cost of the 12 temporary posts approved by the General Assembly for 1980 and 1981. 6/ In its related observations the Committee noted that if the cost of the posts had been included in the estimates section 19 would have shown a resource growth of \$74,200 at revised 1981 rates. 7/

7. In the light of the additional information provided by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/36/15, the Advisory Committee does not object to the Secretary-General's request for the creation of eight Professional (4 P-4 and 4 P-3) and four local-level established posts under section 19 for deployment to the regional commissions. The related requirements for 1982-1983 are as stated in paragraph 43 of the Secretary-General's report.

8. At the same time, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Commission on Human Settlements and the governing bodies of the regional commissions monitor the human settlements programmes at the regional level to ensure that the staff resources are used effectively and that there is no duplication of work.

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/36/6), vol. I, p. 481.

6/ Ibid., Supplement No. 6 (A/36/6), paras. 19.4, 19.35 and 19.36.

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/36/7), para. 19.7.