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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING

Revised estimates under sections 4, 5A, 6, 27 and 29  
of the proposed programme budget

Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and  
Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the special report of the Secretary-General in which he submits revised estimates under sections 4, 5A, 6, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 in connexion with the convening of the World Assembly on Aging (A/C.5/36/36 and Corr.1 and Add.1). The special report was submitted in response to the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 4.12 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. <sup>1/</sup>

2. The Secretary-General estimates the requirements for the World Assembly on Aging at \$2,078,700, of which \$1,468,400 relates to conference servicing and \$610,300 to other costs.

Conference-servicing requirements

3. The estimate of \$1,468,400 under section 29, has been calculated on a full-cost basis. It covers the following meetings:

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<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session,  
Supplement No. 7 (A/36/7).

\$

(a) One regional preparatory meeting each at the:	
Economic Commission for Western Asia	124 000
Economic Commission for Africa	122 600
Economic Commission for Latin merica	120 900
(b) World Assembly on Aging	<u>1 100 900</u>
	<u><u>1 468 400</u></u>

In paragraph 15 of his special report and paragraph 2 of the addendum to it the Secretary-General indicated that although the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/129, had approved resources for the holding of four regional preparatory meetings in 1981, it had been possible to hold only one - at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - as planned. The other three regional preparatory meetings are being postponed to 1982. In accordance with standard practice, the Secretary-General proposes to review the conference-servicing requirements in the context of the consolidated statement of such requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session.

Other costs

4. The Secretary-General requests a total of \$610,300, as follows:

<u>Budget section</u>	\$
4 . . . . .	284 500
5A . . . . .	3 500
6 . . . . .	11 500
27 . . . . .	<u>310 800</u>
	<u><u>610 300</u></u>

The estimate of \$284,500 under section 4 may be broken down as follows:

	\$	<u>Paragraph reference in</u>		
		<u>A/C.5/36/36</u>	<u>A/C.5/36/36/Add.1</u>	
		<u>and Corr.1</u>		
(a) Salaries and common staff costs for secretariat support in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for six months in 1982 (July-December); one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and two General Service posts, one at the principal level . . . . .	147 500	<u>a/</u>	6 (a), 8	-
(b) Travel and subsistence for two Centre staff members to attend the ECA, ECWA and ECLA preparatory regional meetings postponed from 1981 to 1982 . . . . .	17 400		15	2
(c) Travel and subsistence of Centre staff to visit Member States to stimulate interest at the national level in the objectives of the World Assembly and to participate in regional and national events in support of those objectives . . .	800	<u>b/</u>	6 (c), 19 (c)	-
(d) Temporary assistance in the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (one D-1 Co-ordinator and 1 P-5 Editor for three work-months each; and one G-4 General Service staff for four work-months)	41 500		9	-
(e) Travel and subsistence of four staff members from the Office of the Secretary-General to attend the World Assembly on Aging . . . . .	14 500		10 (a)	-
(f) Travel and subsistence of representatives of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity . . . . .	10 800		11	-

	\$	<u>Paragraph reference in</u>	
		<u>A/C.5/36/36</u>	<u>A/C.5/36/36/Add.1</u>
		<u>and Corr.1</u>	
(g) Travel and subsistence of 16 staff members from the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters . . . . .	44 500	10 (d)	-
(h) Hospitality . . . . .	<u>7 500</u>	12	-
Total	<u>284 500</u>		

a/ An amount of \$131,000 for secretariat support for the period January to June 1982 has been recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 (Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/36/7), para. 4.12).

b/ An amount of \$12,000 for travel and subsistence of Centre staff for this activity has already been recommended by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 (ibid).

6. Bearing in mind that the World Assembly on Aging will end on 5 August 1982, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that all the temporary staff in the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (one P-5, one P-4, one P-3, one G-5 and one G-4) will be required until the end of 1982. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that provision be made for the P-3 post only up to the end of September 1982, with a consequential reduction in the estimate by \$14,500.

7. As regards the estimate of \$44,500 for travel and subsistence of 16 staff members from the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (see para. 5, item (g) of table), the Advisory Committee was informed that the staff members would comprise 8 Professional officers (Secretary of the Conference; Co-ordinator of secretariat services; Assistant Secretary of the Conference and officer-in-charge of the list of speakers; Secretary of Committee I; Secretary of Committee II; Secretary of Working Group; Assistant Secretary of Conference in charge of informal consultations; and Chief Editor) and 8 General Service staff. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, a similar secretariat, had been assigned to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held at Nairobi in 1981. The Advisory Committee believes that some of the Professional functions can be combined. In the circumstances and bearing in mind the existence in Vienna of services that were not available at Nairobi, the Advisory Committee recommends that the number of staff of the Office of Secretariat

Services be reduced by 2 (1 Professional and 1 General Service), with a consequential reduction of the estimate by \$15,500.

8. In paragraphs 6 and 7 above, the Advisory Committee has recommended reductions totalling \$20,000 under section 4, bringing the estimate from \$284,500 to \$264,500.

9. Under section 5A, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the request for travel and subsistence in the amount of \$3,500 for attendance at the World Assembly on Aging by the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (A/C.5/36/36 and Corr.1, para. 10 (b)).

10. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the estimate of \$11,500 under section 6, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, covered travel and subsistence for attendance at the World Assembly on Aging by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department; the Assistant-Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination; one D-1 officer and one Professional officer. Bearing in mind that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which has primary responsibility for the substantive servicing of the World Assembly on Aging, is located at Vienna, the Advisory Committee recommends that the number of staff from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs be reduced from four to three with a consequential reduction of the estimates by \$3,000.

11. At the request of the Advisory Committee, the representatives of the Secretary-General provided a breakdown of the estimate of \$310,800 under section 27, Department of Public Information, as follows:

	\$
(a) <u>General temporary assistance</u>	
one P-3 and one General Service post for 12 months each	66 900
(b) <u>Travel of participants</u>	
provision for 10 journalists to attend encounter session and World Assembly	27 800
(c) <u>Travel of media representatives</u>	
provision for 8 journalists to attend three different regional preparatory meetings in 1982 postponed from 1981	25 000
(d) <u>Travel of staff to service meetings</u>	
coverage by an information officer of the three regional preparatory meetings in 1982 postponed from 1981 (\$5,700) and coverage by 18 information officers and technical staff of World Assembly (\$50,400)	56 100

	\$
(e) <u>Contractual services</u>	
press kit and special edition of <u>Development Forum</u>	108 800
(f) <u>Booklets and leaflets</u>	
two issues of newsletter	16 200
(g) <u>Grants</u>	
for United Nations system activities - photo exhibit and other publications	<u>10 000</u>
	<u><u>310 800</u></u>

The Advisory Committee was also informed that virtually the entire appropriation of \$119,900 approved for 1981 had been either expended or obligated.

12. The Advisory Committee is not convinced that the amount of \$310,800 for public information activities in 1982 will be required in full. In particular, the Committee questions the need to retain the two temporary staff for four months beyond the end of the Conference. Furthermore, some savings should be possible in the travel of information staff. It is also uncertain whether all the media representatives and journalists invited will be able to attend the regional preparatory meetings, the encounter and the World Assembly on Aging. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimate of \$310,800 for public information activities be reduced by \$60,800, to \$250,000.

Recapitulation

13. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 8, 10 and 12 above may be summarized as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Reduction recommended</u>	<u>Appropriation recommended</u>
	\$	\$	\$
4	284 500	20 000	264 500
5A	3 500	-	3 500
6	11 500	3 000	8 500
27	<u>310 800</u>	<u>60 800</u>	<u>250 000</u>
	<u><u>610 300</u></u>	<u><u>83 800</u></u>	<u><u>526 500</u></u>

14. An additional appropriation of \$86,700 (instead of \$89,100 as requested) would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimate of income under Income section 1.

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