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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1981-1982

Establishment of an Information Systems Unit in the Department
of International Economic and Social Affairs

Canada, Denmark, Pakistan: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980 by which it decided that the staffing complement of ISU would be funded temporarily by the regular budget for 1981 and that a report on the evaluation of the system should be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session,

Noting the report of the Inter-Organizational Board for Information Systems containing an evaluation of the ISU, the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the ACABQ which provide information on the progress of the ISU since last year, and particularly of the section which outlines the role that ISU can play in the maintenance of compatibility and the exchange of development information among the regional economic commissions,

Mindful of the limited size of both the data base and user community of the DIS and of the need to improve its coverage and services,

Considering that the Development Information System, in providing access to the unpublished reports and studies produced by or for the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, and other parts of the United Nations Secretariat, will be providing a needed and valuable service to Member Governments and other users of the system,

Further considering that the loss of the Development Information System could have a negative effect on international co-operation for development,

1. Decides that the Information Systems Unit should be continued, provided that it can be financed from within already proposed resources for information systems activities of the 1982-1983 programme budget. To this end the Secretary-General should establish its priority among these activities;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to exploit the potential of the Information Systems Unit to serve as a focal point for the expansion, merging and distribution of the development-related data bases of the regional commissions and for the maintenance of the macrothesaurus;
3. Further requests the Secretary-General to undertake measures to improve the DIS in terms of its coverage and services;
4. Requests the IOB to report on the Unit's performance and utility for consideration by the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly.
