



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/36/75/Add.26*
8 December 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 99

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Programme budget performance of the United Nations
for the biennium 1980-1981

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Section 26. Legal activities

* Reissued for technical reasons.

SECTION 26. LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Table 26.1

(Thousands of US dollars)

(1) Regular budget						
Revised appropriation 1980-1981	Estimated additional requirements					Total revised estimate
	Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy-making organs	Other changes	Total	
10 639.3	120.0	(177.4)	-	(223.6)	(281.7)	10 357.6
(2) Extrabudgetary resources						
Previously estimated expenditures 1980-1981	Source of funds					Revised estimate
(a) Substantive and administrative support						
614.4	Support to extrabudgetary administrative structures					532.0
123.1	Technical co-operation reimbursement resources					107.1
737.5	Total (2)					639.1
11 376.8	Total (1) and (2)					10 996.7

Table 26.2

Regular budget: distribution of revised estimates by programme

(Thousands of US dollars)

Programmes	Revised appropriations 1980-1981	Estimated additional requirements						Total 1980-1981 revised estimates
		Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy- making organs	Redeploy- ment	Other changes	Total	
A. Policy-making organs								
1. International Law Commission	1 041.9	7.5	(41.9)	-	-	56.7	22.3	1 064.2
2. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	194.0	0.9	(13.2)	-	-	9.7	(2.6)	191.4
3. United Nations Administrative Tribunal and its secretariat	304.3	2.2	-	-	-	(11.4)	(9.2)	295.1
Total A	1 540.2	10.6	(55.1)	-	-	55.0	10.5	1 550.7
B. Special meetings and conferences								
United Nations Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods	130.8	-	-	-	-	(29.9)	(29.9)	100.9
Total B	130.8	-	-	-	-	(29.9)	(29.9)	100.9
C. Office of Legal Affairs:								
1. Executive direction and management	1 197.4	9.1	-	-	148.2	(3.1)	154.2	1 351.6
2. Programmes of activity								
(a) International Trade Law Branch	1 791.5	19.6	(122.3)	-	-	37.8	(64.9)	1 726.6
(b) Depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties	2 268.8	47.0	-	-	-	(232.9)	(185.9)	2 082.9
(c) United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of Law	194.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	194.0
(d) Codification Division	1 644.8	15.4	-	-	7.0	(2.4)	20.0	1 664.8
(e) General Legal Division	1 871.8	18.3	-	-	(155.2)	(48.8)	(185.7)	1 686.1
Total C	8 968.3	109.4	(122.3)	-	-	(249.4)	(262.3)	8 706.0
Grand total	10 639.3	120.0	(177.4)	-	-	(224.3)	(281.7)	10 357.6

Table 26.3

Regular budget: distribution of estimated additional requirements
by programme and by main object of expenditure

(Thousands of US dollars)

Programmes	Salaries and common staff costs	Travel	Printing	Other contractual services	General operating expenses	Supplies, materials, furniture, and equipment	Other	Total
A. Policy-making organs								
1. International Law Commission	-	(104.3)	131.9	(5.3)	-	-	-	22.3
2. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	-	(18.8)	16.2	-	-	-	-	(2.6)
3. United Nations Administrative Tribunal and its secretariat	3.8	(13.0)	-	-	-	-	-	(9.2)
Total A	3.8	(136.1)	148.1	(5.3)	-	-	-	10.5
B. Special meetings and conferences								
United Nations Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods	-	(21.1)	(8.8)	-	-	-	-	(29.9)
Total B	-	(21.1)	(8.8)	-	-	-	-	(29.9)
C. Office of Legal Affairs								
1. Executive direction and management	67.4	-	0.3	-	-	-	86.5	154.2
2. Programmes of activity								
(a) International Trade Law Branch	(65.3)	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	(64.9)
(b) Depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties	(17.0)	-	(181.4)	-	12.5	-	-	(185.9)
(c) United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(d) Codification Division	4.3	-	15.7	-	-	-	-	20.0
(e) General Legal Division	(185.3)	-	(0.4)	-	-	-	-	(185.7)
Total C	(195.9)	-	(165.8)	-	12.9	-	86.5	(262.3)
Grand total	(192.1)	(157.2)	(26.5)	(5.3)	12.9	-	86.5	(281.7)

SECTION 26. LEGAL ACTIVITIES

A. Policy-making organs

I. Programme developments

International Law Commission

26.1 The Commission carried out its programme of work as planned and at its thirty-third session adopted the final text of its draft articles on succession of States in respect of matters other than treaties.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

26.2 The Commission essentially carried out its planned programme of work, as described in paragraph 26.9 of the Secretary-General's initial programme budget proposals for the biennium 1980-1981. The Commission's Working Group on International Negotiable Instruments completed the draft Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes and the Convention on a Set of Uniform Rules dealing with Cheques. However, the sessions of the working groups were not held as frequently as expected. The Second UNCITRAL Symposium was held in Vienna from 19 to 26 June 1981, and 62 participants from 42 countries attended, 19 participants of which were provided with fellowships.

United Nations Administrative Tribunal and its secretariat

26.3 It is expected that the Tribunal will have rendered 28 judgements by the end of the current biennium.

II. Revised budget estimates

Travel (Decrease: \$136,100)

26.4 Savings arises in respect of (a) the International Law Commission due to less than full participation by representatives and the reduced cost of attendance at meetings (\$104,300), (b) the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law due to the fact that the Chairman did not travel as extensively as foreseen and sessions of the working groups were held less frequently than expected (\$18,800) and (c) the United Nations Administrative Tribunal due to less than full attendance by members (\$13,000).

External printing (Increase: \$148,100)

26.5 Additional requirements in respect of the International Law Commission, are due to a charge to the 1980-1981 budget of the cost of publications carried over from the 1978-1979 publications programme (\$131,900) and in respect of UNCITRAL to cover the cost of the English and Russian versions of the official records of the United Nations Conference on the Carriage of Goods by Sea, 1978 (\$16,200).

Honoraria (Decrease: \$5,300)

26.6 Less than full participation by representatives accounts for the unencumbered balance of \$5,300 in respect of the International Law Commission.

B. Special meetings and conferences

United Nations Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods

26.7 The Conference adopted the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and opened it for signature at its concluding meeting on 11 April 1980.

26.8 In accordance with paragraphs 5 (e), (f) and (i) of General Assembly resolution 33/93, resources in the amount of \$21,100 were provided to finance the travel and subsistence of observers to the Conference; since no observers attended the Conference the full amount is surrendered. Savings of \$8,800 under external printing were realized in the joint printing and reproduction of the official records of the Conference.

C. Office of Legal Affairs

I. Programme developments

General Legal Division

26.9 The responsibility for the production of the Repertory of Practice of the United Nations Organs was assigned to the Office of the Legal Counsel. In compliance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 35/164 five basic volumes of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs were reprinted in English and one volume of the table of contents and subject index thereto.

II. Revised budget estimates

Redeployment of posts

26.10 In order to place the functions relating to the production of the Repertory of Practice under the direct purview of the Legal Counsel, the D-1 post relating to Repertory matters was redeployed from the General Legal Division to the Office of the Legal Counsel.

Salaries and common staff costs (Decrease: \$195,900)

26.11 The decrease under salaries and common staff costs is attributable in the main to a vacancy of 17 months at the P-3 level and 12 months at the P-4 level in the International Trade Law Branch and includes an amount of \$31,200 in respect of temporary posts due to recruitment difficulties experienced in 1980. Of this total, an amount of \$86,500 was utilized by the Office of the Legal Counsel in order to collaborate with UNITAR in the study on legal aspects of the new international economic order (see para. 26.14 below). Another partly offsetting factor was the need for additional general temporary assistance for the Codification Division and Treaty Section.

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External printing (Decrease: \$165,800)

26.12 Savings results from the publication of 54 volumes of the Treaty Series instead of 85 volumes as originally planned in the amount of \$181,800 (of which \$62,400 relate to the resources provided for the elimination of the backlog), partly offset by additional requirements in respect of the publication of the United Nations Juridical Yearbook (\$16,000).

General operating expenses (Increase: \$12,900)

26.13 Additional requirements relate to the rental and maintenance of word processing equipment in respect of the Treaty Section (\$12,500) and freight and related costs in respect of the International Trade Law Branch (\$400).

Other (Increase: \$86,500)

26.14 The additional requirements of \$86,500 under "Other" are covered by redeployment of savings (see para. 26.11 above) from the General Legal Division to the Office of the Legal Counsel in order for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in close liaison with the Office of Legal Affairs, to carry out the study on the progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/166.
