



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1999/L.49
28 July 1999

Original: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1999
Geneva, 5-30 July 1999
Agenda item 13 (b)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained
in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for
Development (E/1999/31)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance
with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and
Social Council

I. REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
DEVELOPMENT

1. At its fourth session, held at Geneva from 17 to 21 May 1999, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development adopted a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (E/1999/31, chap I, sect. A), and recommended it for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

2. By paragraphs 11 and 21 of the above-mentioned resolution, the secretariat of the Commission would be requested to:

(a) Assist in identifying and disseminating balanced information on biotechnology, intellectual property rights and biosafety;

(b) Examine case studies of approaches to address issues related to technology, intellectual property rights and biosafety issues in a practical, understandable and concrete way;

(c) Prepare a succinct analytical report on relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the outcome of the World Science Conference, for consideration under the item entitled "Functioning of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its role in coordinating science and technology for development".

3. The above activities relate to programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1), and to subprogramme 2, Investment, enterprise development and technology, of section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/6). However, it should be noted that the above activities have not been included in the programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001 to be carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

II. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2000-2001

4. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, additional provisions under the regular budget would be required as follows:

(a) \$55,300 under general temporary assistance, representing seven work-months at the P-4 level, to carry out the activities described under subparagraphs 2 (a) and (b) above;

(b) \$31,600 also under general temporary assistance, representing four work-months at the P-4 level to carry out the activities described in subparagraph 2 (c) above.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Programme of work

5. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft resolution, the programme of work described in paragraph 11A.44 of section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 would be modified as follows:

(a) In paragraph 11A.44 (a) (ii) e, the words "and an analytical report on relevant activities within the United Nations system, including the outcome of the World Conference on Science and Technology" would be added at the end of the paragraph;

(b) In paragraph 11A.44 (b) (ii), the words "case studies on issues related to technology, intellectual property rights and biosafety issues (6)" would be added after the words "investment incentives";

(c) In paragraph 11A.44 (b) (iii), the words "information kits on biotechnology-related issues (2)" would be added after the word "methodology".

B. Contingency fund

6. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, the additional requirements arising from the draft resolution proposed by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would amount to \$86,900. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 under section 11A, Trade and development, to cover these additional requirements.

7. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

8. It is not possible, at this stage, to identify activities within section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium to finance the costs of the additional activities recommended by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

9. Should the Economic and Social Council decide to adopt the draft resolution contained in document E/1999/31, an additional provision of \$86,900 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The provision of \$86,900 would represent a charge against the contingency fund and as such would require a related additional appropriation.
