



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/36/40
10 November 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

Administrative and financial implications of the recommendations of the
Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in paragraphs 477 through 514
of its report on its twenty-first session 1/

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General

1. At its twenty-first session, on 26 October 1981, the Fifth Committee requested the Secretariat to submit a statement of administrative and financial implications of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) which are contained in paragraphs 477 through 514 of its report on its twenty-first session. The implications of each of the CPC recommendations are discussed below under each of the sections of the programme budget to which they relate.

Section 2. Political and Security Council affairs; peace-keeping activities

2. In paragraph 477 of its report, the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination recommended that the request for consultant funds in section 2 under paragraphs 2.18, 2.26 and 2.37 should be rejected. The related resources would amount to \$29,700 (at revised 1981 rates) as follows: paragraph 2.18, \$7,000; paragraph 2.26, \$10,500; paragraph 2.37, \$12,200. This recommendation refers to the paragraphs of the budget relating to resource requirements. The Advisory Committee recommended reductions of \$117,000 (at revised 1981 rates) for consultants in section 2B as a whole, of which \$68,200 relates to the study on conventional disarmament (see para. 3 below). It would appear that this paragraph of the CPC report has already been acted upon by the Fifth Committee in its acceptance of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session,
Supplement No. 38 (A/36/38), chap. VII, sect. D.

3. In paragraph 478, the Committee recommends that a review of the efficiency of maintaining the United Nations Supply Depot at Pisa, Italy, should be undertaken. The proposed review will be incorporated into the work programme of the Administrative Management Service for the biennium 1982-1983.

4. Regarding the recommendation of the Committee contained in paragraph 479 of its report for the deletion of programme element 3.4, it should be noted that the work relating to conventional disarmament involves, in addition to consultant funds (\$68,200 at revised 1981 rates), requirements for travel and per diem of experts amounting to \$167,500 (at revised 1981 rates). These requirements were foreseen in a statement of administrative and financial implications (document A/C.5/35/106) prepared in connexion with the adoption of resolution 35/156 A, by which the General Assembly approved, in principle the carrying out of a study on conventional disarmament. The precise guidelines for the execution of the mandate of the Secretary-General as discussed in paragraph 123 of the CPC report depend on a recommendation of the Disarmament Commission to the Secretary-General. Therefore, a decision by the General Assembly to adopt the recommendation of CPC and delete programme element 3.4 would appear to pre-empt any such recommendation by the Disarmament Commission.

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

5. With respect to the programme for development issues and policies, paragraph 482 of its report, CPC recommends that

(a) The Secretary-General should supplement the output of programme element 1.1 by the "preparation of an over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000, with special emphasis on the period up to 1990";

(b) The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should try in all instances not to duplicate the work carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

(c) Requests for consultants under programme element 5.1 should be deleted;

(d) Higher priority should be attached to programme element 4.4.

6. There are no implications envisaged with respect to recommendations (a), (b) and (d). As regards recommendation (c), it should be recalled that the Economic and Social Council discussed the CPC recommendation at the fifteenth meeting of the Third Committee of the Council at its second regular session. In the course of that meeting, two delegations expressed misgivings concerning the proposed deletion of the requests for consultants to undertake tasks in evaluating energy technology developments at an estimated cost of \$10,000 at 1981 rates (\$11,500 at 1982-1983 rates); another delegation supported the deletion; and a fourth indicated that if the requests for consultants for the programme were not fully justified they should be deleted. This background is provided in the light of Economic and Social Council decision 1981/180 to endorse the CPC recommendations "taking fully into account the reservations and comments made thereon by members of the Committee and

by members of the Council". Should the deletion proposed be approved by the General Assembly, it would result in a reduction of \$11,500 in the level of appropriations required for the biennium 1982-1983.

7. In paragraph 483 of its report, with respect to the programme on social development and humanitarian affairs, the Committee recommends the deletion of programme element 2.3 as being duplicative of work carried out by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The costs associated with programme element 2.3 are estimated to total \$296,900 at 1981 rates (\$318,800 at 1982-1983 rates). The amount of \$318,800 would be composed of \$4,400 for travel of staff, \$6,600 for consultants and \$307,800 for salaries and common staff costs in respect of 39 work months of Professional staff time and 30 work months of General Service staff time. These work months relate to the output of several different posts at different levels; hence it is not possible at this stage to indicate whether any one particular post could be released by the deletion of this programme element, should the General Assembly decide to approve the CPC recommendation.

8. In the debate in the Third Committee during the second regular session of the Council, five delegations stated that in their view programme element 2.3 did not duplicate the work of ILO and, therefore, should not be cancelled. No delegation spoke in favour of cancellation. Accordingly, it would appear that based on the decision 1981/180 of the Council, the recommendation has been modified.

9. In paragraph 484 of its report, with respect to the statistical programme, the Committee recommends that

(a) The Economic and Social Council should request the Statistical Commission to review and evaluate the general policy of publication of statistics which are more than three years old;

(b) The programme should accurately reflect decisions of the Council on the question of technical assistance to developing countries for the development of energy statistics. It is envisaged that no financial implications will arise in respect of these two recommendations.

Section 7. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

10. In paragraph 486 of its report, CPC recommends that

(a) Programme element 2.3 (informatics for development) in the policies and resources planning programme should be deleted.

(b) High priority should be given to programme element 2.4, (standardization of definitions and terminology) in the natural resources and energy programme.

11. The resources requested for programme element 2.3 are 12 work months of Professional staff time at the P-3 level and 6 work months of General Service staff time. The cost of these work months, at 1982-1983 rates, is estimated at \$54,000 (\$41,000 for salaries and \$13,000 for common staff costs). The associated staff assessment requirements amount to \$14,200 under section 31 of the regular budget, which is balanced by an equivalent amount of estimated income under income section 1.

/...

12. It should be pointed out, however, that the above-mentioned regular budget resources are intended to be utilized as "seed money" towards the development and co-ordination of technical co-operation projects funded from extrabudgetary resources, including the United Nations Development Programme and the Interim Fund for Science and Technology. This intention is evident from the fact that the planned final output, as indicated in the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983, would be the preparation of technical publications - manuals, guidelines and training materials - for use by developing countries.

13. It should also be pointed out that Professional and General Service staff time is budgeted in terms of established posts for full biennia only, and, hence, the recommendation of CPC does not lead to specific budgetary savings. The Secretary-General believes that should the CPC recommendation for the deletion of programme element 2.3 be approved, the most appropriate course of action would be for the released resources to be redeployed to other programme elements for which strengthened support is needed. Particularly worthy of such support are programme elements 2.5 (co-ordination of work in technical co-operation for integration of women in development) and 3.1 (development of standards and criteria for enhancing the role of technical co-operation in investment and pre-investment activities and liaison with development finance institutions).

14. With respect to the proposal to accord high priority status to programme element 2.4, the Secretary-General envisages that this should not require any net additional expenditures to be incurred under section 7 of the programme budget; hence, no financial implications would arise.

15. There are no financial implications for the implementation of the CPC recommendations in paragraphs 487 and 488, inasmuch as they relate to the presentation of the next biennial programme budget proposals.

Section 9. Transnational corporations

16. In paragraph 489 (a) of its report, CPC recommends that programme element 2.2 (corrupt practices) should be deleted for lack of legislative mandate.

17. The resources envisaged for this programme element are three work months (one at the P-4 level and two at the P-2/1 level) for 1982 and three work months at the same levels in 1983. The estimated requirement for salaries (\$16,000) and common staff costs (\$5,500) is \$21,500. Staff assessment under section 31 is estimated at \$5,000, which would be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

18. It should be borne in mind, however, that the manner in which the output under programme element 2.2 was presented in the programme budget proposals has caused the misinterpretation that it lacked legislative mandate. In this regard, the General Assembly may wish to bear in mind the following additional information.

19. At the second session, held on 1-12 March 1976, when the Commission on Transnational Corporations established the programme of the Centre on Transnational Corporations, it identified a number of priority areas on which the work of the Centre should focus (see the report of the Commission, document E/5782). In paragraph 23 of that document, "Corrupt practices of transnational corporations" was one of the 13 items where the Commission considered the information gaps to be most pressing and on which it requested the Centre to collect information on a priority basis.

20. In paragraph 16 of the Commission's report (E/5782), concerning the code of conduct, the Centre was also requested to undertake studies on the various issues involved, with a view to assisting the Commission in the formulation of the code. One of the issues which the Commission has decided should be dealt with in the code of conduct is that of corrupt practices, on which it is therefore necessary for the Centre to keep monitoring relevant developments and collecting information.

21. The statement that future work of the Centre concerning corrupt practices depends on further legislative mandates should therefore be understood as referring specifically to the additional function of assistance that the Centre has to provide to the Committee on Illicit Payments, which was established by the Economic and Social Council to draft an agreement on the subject, and the support for which is not covered by the proposed six work months in the 1982-1983 budget.

22. It is therefore the Secretary-General's view that this programme element should be retained in the programme budget.

23. As regards the recommendation in paragraph 489 (b) of the CPC report that programme elements 1.10, 1.15 and 1.17 should be borne by the regional commissions, it should be stated that these programme elements are, in fact, not carried out by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations but by the Joint Units at the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific because of their special relevance to those regional commissions. They are presented in section 9 because the entire programme of work of the Secretariat relating to transnational corporations, which includes both the activities being undertaken by the regional commissions and by the Centre, is provided for in that section of the budget. The Centre itself will not engage in the activities under the aforementioned three programme elements and therefore all the budgetary provisions for them are section 9B, subsection 2 (Joint units with the regional commissions) and not under subsection 1 (Centre on Transnational Corporations). The related resources under the Joint Units are actually at the disposal of the regional commissions and are costed accordingly.

Section 10. Economic Commission for Europe

24. In paragraph 490 of its report, CPC recommends the deletion of programme element 1.6 (population issues) of the programme on development issues and policies, for lack of legislative mandate. While it is true that there is no legislative mandate, as such, for the work described under this programme element within the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), that work is carried out on an

intersecretariat basis in co-operation with the Population Division at Headquarters and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). In any event, as the financing of this programme element is assured entirely by UNFPA, that is, with extrabudgetary funds, its deletion would have no financial implication for the regular budget.

25. With regard to the recommendation that under programme element 2.2 of the international trade programme, an investigation should be made of the question of tariff and non-tariff barriers obstructing East-West trade, such an investigation is part of the on-going activities of ECE and, therefore, no additional appropriation would be required.

Section 11. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

26. In paragraph 493 of its report, CPC recommends that the proposed transfer of staff resources as contained in paragraph 11.69 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 should not take place. That proposal involves the redeployment to the science and technology programme of six Professional (one P-5, two P-4 and three P-3) and four local level posts from the industrial development programme (\$679,900 in salaries and common staff costs).

27. Both the programme on industrial development and that on science and technology are carried out within the same Division of Industry, Housing and Technology. The different distribution shown in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 merely reflects the actual working experience of the Division in 1980 and 1981. Consequently, the recommendation of CPC, should it be approved by the General Assembly, would not have financial implications.

Section 13. Economic Commission for Africa

28. In paragraph 494 of its report, the Committee recommends that the transport programme of ECA should take into account the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Transport of the African Region which relate to the inclusion of a project concerning the fixed link between Africa and Europe through the Straits of Gibraltar in the Programme of Action for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

29. The secretariat of ECA has plans for sending two experts to Morocco and Spain in 1982. In the course of a six-month mission, these experts would define the project in more detail and prepare a schedule for its implementation. The estimated cost is \$78,400. In view of the fact that the mission planned is an integral part of a technical co-operation project, this cost should be met from extrabudgetary resources.

30. With regard to the recommendation that the transport programme should take into account the implementation of the Programme of Action for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa in general, a separate statement of financial implications will be submitted during the current session of the General Assembly in connexion with the discussion of a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.23) on the subject in the Second Committee.

Section 15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

31. In paragraph 495 of its report, CPC recommends that the Integrated Programme for Commodities under programme 2 (commodities) should be integrated within the Commodities Division of UNCTAD, in accordance with paragraph 2 of section IV of UNCTAD resolution 124 (V). There is no financial implication in this recommendation, inasmuch as the integration would be accomplished by the implementation of the ACABQ recommendation in paragraph 15.7 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 that the estimates for the Integrated Programme for Commodities be treated as a recurrent part of the programme budget for 1982-1983. The recommendations contained in paragraphs 496 and 497 of the CPC report would be taken into account for the implementation of the proposed programme budget and would thus have no financial implications.

Section 16. International Trade Centre

32. The recommendation contained in paragraph 498 of the CPC report will be taken into account in the preparation of future biennial programme budget proposals. It has no financial implications. The recommendation in paragraph 499 of the CPC report has already been implemented with the issuance of document A/C.5/36/3.

Section 17. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

33. The request in paragraph 500 of the CPC report for a progress report at its twenty-second session, in 1982, on the follow-up evaluation of the technical co-operation activities of UNIDO would be met within existing resources.

Section 18. United Nations Environment Programme

34. With regard to the environment programme, in paragraph 501 of its report, CPC recommends that

(a) Output (b) of programme element 1.2 should be deleted to avoid duplication of work.

(b) In the output of programme element 3.2, the words "plan of action for tropical forests" should be deleted and replaced by the words, "programme of activities for tropical forests", and the words "conferences on tropical forests" should be deleted and replaced by the words "relevant meetings".

(c) Provision for the meeting of the ad hoc expert group under programme element 9.1 should be deleted, since the ad hoc group has already completed its work, as stated in paragraph 1 of the General Assembly resolution 34/186.

(d) Programme element 9.1 should be deleted, owing to the absence of a legislative mandate.

35. With regard to the proposal to delete programme element 1.2 to avoid duplication of work, the Secretary-General wishes to point out that the duplication is more apparent than real, as the output under programme element 1.2 (assessment

of basic human needs in relation to outer limits) refers to the empirical research studies on the socio-economic aspects of the relationships between poverty and environmental degradation in selected ecological situations, while output under programme element 3.2 (tropical woodlands and forest ecosystems) relates to technical publications concerning the assessment of the state of forest cover and forest management. The resources programmed for programme element 1.2 total 32 professional work months and 26 General Service work months for the production of five separate output. Of these work months, four Professional and three General Service ones are to be provided from the regular budget while the balance would come from extrabudgetary resources. However, as the recommendation relates only to one of five output, it is estimated that regular budget resources involved amount to less than one work month of Professional and even less of General Service staff time. Approximate salary and common staff costs would equal \$4,700, although those would form only a part of the costs of two or more established posts which are approved on a biennial basis.

36. In respect of the proposal in subparagraph 35 (b) above, the Secretary-General does not believe that this proposal would have any financial implications either for the regular budget of the United Nations or for the Environment Fund. In this connexion, it is noted that in paragraph 3 of its decision 8/9A, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted the intention of the Executive Director to convene, following receipt of responses from Governments and organizations, a second, small expert group meeting to elaborate the programme. The CPC recommendation to replace various phrases is fully consistent with the position of the Governing Council.

37. With regard to the proposal in subparagraph 34 (c) above, estimated requirements for the ad hoc expert group proposed in programme element 9.1 are \$26,200 at 1981 rates (\$31,100 at 1982-1983 rates). The Secretary-General wishes to point out that subsequent to the preparation of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1982-1983, the Governing Council adopted decision 9/19B, whereby it requested

"the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, to prepare for consideration by the Governing Council at its tenth session a report for submission, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly, dealing exclusively with the progress made in the application of General Assembly resolution 34/186, without recommendations regarding the identification of definition or shared natural resources."

The Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme has informed the Secretary-General that in view of the decision of the Governing Council, the ad hoc expert group meeting is no longer needed. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the recommendation of CPC to delete the ad hoc expert group in programme element 9.1, the required appropriation for the biennium 1982-1983 would be reduced by \$31,100.

38. With respect to the proposal in subparagraph 34 (d) above to delete programme element 9.1, the Secretary-General draws to the attention of the General Assembly the fact that this recommendation overlaps with the recommendation in subparagraph (c) which concerns just one of the output of the entire programme element 9.1. The

financial implications of deleting programme element 9.1 would affect both the regular budget of the United Nations and the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund. Under the regular budget, the following resources have been earmarked for programme element 9.1:

	\$
One P-4 established post for 24 work months (salaries and common staff costs)	130 000
Six work months of one local level General Service post (salaries and common staff costs)	9 000
One <u>ad hoc</u> expert group (which is to be deleted as mentioned in paragraph 38 above)	31 000
Travel of staff	2 900
Total	<u>164 100</u>

Staff assessment provisions in respect of the above under section 31 and estimated income under income section 1 would amount to \$26,100.

39. The provisions in respect of the extrabudgetary resources of UNEP under the programme and programme support costs budget of UNEP are as follows:

	\$
28 work months at the P-5 level (salaries and common staff costs)	182 200
24 work months at the Local Level of General Service (salaries and common staff costs)	35 900
10 work months of consultants	73 900
One <u>ad hoc</u> expert group meeting	26 200
Travel of staff	2 500
Total	<u>320 700</u>

40. With respect to the basis of the proposal in subparagraph 34 (d) that there is no legislative mandate for programme element 9.1, the Secretary-General wishes to point out that the recommendation of CPC was formulated at a time when the Governing Council of UNEP was holding its ninth session, at which the activities proposed in the UNEP medium-term plan for 1982-1983 were formally approved by the Council in decision 9/10 on programme matters, thereby providing the broad legislative framework for the activities mentioned in programme element 9.1. The meetings mentioned in programme element 9.1 are two intergovernmental meetings and four intergovernmental expert group meetings, which are follow-up meetings to

prepare and adopt a draft framework convention for the protection of the coastal areas of the Caribbean region and the East African region, respectively. In addition, the 10 preparatory intergovernmental expert group meetings also listed under programme element 9.1 will deal, respectively, with international rivers, the protection of the ozone layer, land-based sources of marine pollution, transport and disposal of toxic wastes, and further work to be carried out as a follow-up to the high-level meeting of experts on environmental law.

41. The Secretary-General wishes to point out that the relevant legislative mandates are set forth in General Assembly resolution 35/74 and UNEP Governing Council decisions 35 (III); 66 (IV); 91 (V); 6/9; 7/11; 8/8; 8/15; 9/13 and 9/19A.

42. In view of this information, the General Assembly may wish to review the CPC proposal to delete programme element 9.1, as that recommendation was based upon the apparent lack of a legislative mandate for the subprogramme.

Section 21. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

43. In paragraphs 503 and 504 of its report, CPC recommends certain forms of presentation of the programme budget submission under this section. These recommendations would be taken into account in the preparation of future programme budget proposals. They have no financial implications.

Section 23. Human rights

44. In paragraph 505 of its report, CPC recommends that obsolete output (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) described in paragraph 23.18 of section 23 of the proposed programme budget should be deleted, in accordance with the relevant decisions and resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1981.

45. It should be pointed out that these four output are listed at the end of programme element 1.1 (implementing regular supervision procedures) of subprogramme 1 (implementation of international instruments and established United Nations procedures in the field of human rights). They are clearly identified as having been discontinued or as being proposed for discontinuation. Consequently, no resources have been requested for these four output in the 1982-1983 proposed programme budget. There are therefore no financial implications for this recommendation inasmuch as these output are not included in the 17 output listed under programme element 1.1 for which resources are requested in the proposed programme budget.

Section 24. Regular programme of technical co-operation

46. In paragraphs 506 and 507 of its report, the CPC recommends certain forms of presentation of the future programme budget submissions of this section. There are no financial implications for these recommendations.

47. In paragraph 508 of its report, the CPC recommends that subsection 3 (training) of section 24A (sectoral advisory services) should be supplemented by the seminars, workshops and symposia to be held in socialist countries in 1982 and 1983. This recommendation has no financial implication either, since it will be

accommodated in the existing resources of section 24 on the basis of requests from Governments during the biennium.

Section 26. Legal activities

48. In respect of legal activities (section 26), the Committee, in paragraph 509 of its report, recommends the deletion of output (ii) to (viii) of programme element 1.1 (substantive servicing of meetings) of subprogramme 1 listed in paragraph 26.36, for lack of legislative mandate. The output in question involves the substantive servicing of the International Law Commission (output ii), the conference preparing the convention on most-favoured-nation clauses (output iii), the conference preparing the Convention on Succession of States in respect of matters other than treaties (output iv), the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (output v), the Special Committee on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Non-Use of Force in International Relations (output vi), the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (output vii) and the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism (output viii). The deletion of these output would not give rise to financial implications, inasmuch as the servicing of the meetings in question would be undertaken by a variety of staff of the Codification Division whose functions would also include the implementation of other programme elements listed under subprogrammes 1, 3 and 4, as indicated in paragraph 26.36. On the other hand, should the bodies outlined in output (ii) and (viii) be convened in the biennium 1982-1983, substantive servicing would have to be provided to enable its members to accomplish their tasks.

Section 27. Public information

49. The recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraph 510 to 514 of its report would not give rise to administrative or financial implications in respect of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.
