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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

QUESTION OF THE ELDERLY AND THE AGED

WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/C.3/37/L.21 as orally revised

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. The Third Committee, at its 42nd meeting, held on 15 November 1982, adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.21 as orally revised. The Committee had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications in document A/C.3/37/L.26.

2. By operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.21 the General Assembly would endorse "the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging contained in the report and adopted by consensus at the World Assembly on Aging". The Vienna International Plan identified recommendations for action at the international, regional and national levels. At the international level, it urges the United Nations and its specialized agencies to give careful consideration to its implementation and to ensure an appropriate response to it. Specifically the Plan urges action at the international level in the areas of data collection and analysis, training and education, research, technical co-operation, exchange of information and experience, formulation and implementation of international guidelines and assessment, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

3. By operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General "to take the necessary steps to ensure that sufficient resources, within reasonable limits, are made available for the effective implementation of, and follow up action to, the Plan of Action as well as to maintain the momentum generated by the World Assembly on Aging". By operative paragraph 6, the General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General "to take such steps as may be appropriate for the necessary strengthening of activities in the field of aging at the central and regional levels of the United Nations as set forth in the Plan of Action". Further, by operative paragraph 7, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General "to strengthen the international network of existing information research and training centres in the field of aging in order to encourage and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills and experiences, as well as technical co-operation among countries within various regions". Finally, by operative paragraph 8 the General Assembly would urge the Secretary-General "to implement the recommendations concerning the international co-operation with respect to aging, as well as the assessment, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Vienna International Plan of Action".

4. In order effectively to implement and maintain the momentum of the Vienna International Plan as mandated by the draft resolution in document A/C.3/37/L.21, the Secretary-General would plan to continue providing support to the National Committees on Aging which are essential and instrumental for the implementation of the objectives of the Plan of Action at the national level. Furthermore, the Secretary-General would have to:

(a) Expand existing capabilities in the areas of research and information exchange;

(b) Strengthen co-ordination of an international network of research centres on aging;

(c) Organize seminars and workshops to provide a regional exchange of information and experience;

(d) Undertake assessment, review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging. To this end, it would be necessary for the Secretary-General to collect and analyse information and data on policies and programmes on aging in the various regions of the world and to disseminate this information to concerned Governments and international, regional and national intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Specifically, the World Assembly on Aging provided a wealth of data and information on aging through 71 national reports on aging and over 100 country statements. A comparative analysis of this information would be undertaken and, based on the results, a report on the world aging situation should be issued and periodically updated. The Vienna International Plan also identified other priority research areas which should be looked into in the near future such as the influence of economic and demographic factors (including migration) on societal planning, and the use of skills, expertise, knowledge and cultural potential of the aging.

5. The current Bulletin on Aging would, within existing resources, be reoriented and expanded to include a wider scope of analyses of current trends in selected issues concerning aging. In addition, subject to the availability of the necessary extrabudgetary resources, seminars and workshops would be convened to provide an opportunity to exchange information and experience, particularly on how the aging of populations can affect development and on ways and means to promote technical co-operation among developing countries.

6. Furthermore, the Secretary-General would continue to strengthen the international network of existing information research and training centres in the field of aging. For this purpose, the United Nations would co-ordinate the activities of regional and subregional research and development centres and promote the preparation of information materials, as well as the constant exchange of information and policies related to aging. Additionally, the United Nations, as requested by the Plan, and in collaboration with the network, would give due importance to the standardization of definitions, terms and research methodologies as these are essential to the exchange of information. It is also anticipated that this international network would be expanded to include regional, subregional and national networks for the purpose, inter alia, of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries.

7. In response to the provisions of operative paragraphs 8 and 13, the Secretary-General would intend to assess, review and appraise the implementation of the Plan of Action. Furthermore, the Secretary-General would develop new guidelines in areas of concern to the elderly and review them in relation to the implementation of the Plan. The Secretary-General would prepare periodic reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action and on the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan.

8. As to activities at the regional levels, it is envisaged that the secretariats of the regional commissions would develop individual programmes based on the regional plans of action for review and adoption by the regional commissions. These programmes should be well co-ordinated with those at the international level and the necessary allocation of resources would be determined after a thorough review and assessment. Accordingly, the Secretary-General believes that it would be premature at this stage to make any proposals with respect to regional programmes on aging.

9. The implementation of the Vienna International Plan of Action and of the proposals contained within the draft resolution would call for the reprogramming of resources presently available to the Aging Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Secretary-General is of the opinion that, whilst some reprogramming can be carried out in respect of 1983 activities, it will also be necessary to augment existing resources to meet the expanded responsibilities resulting from the Vienna International Plan of Action.

10. The Aging Unit is presently composed of three established posts in the Professional category (one P-4 and two P-2). The Professional staff resources of the Unit were programmed in the following manner in the 1982-1983 programme budget for social development and humanitarian affairs:

Programme element 7.4: Social integration of the aging

Output: Sales publication: Organizational approaches for the social integration of the aging

Programme element 7.5: Preparatory work and follow-up to the World Assembly on Aging

Programme element 7.6: Information exchange on aging

Output: Bulletin on Aging

11. The expanded responsibilities resulting from the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.21 and the Vienna International Plan of Action would call for the reinforcement of the staff resources available for this purpose as additional responsibilities would include:

(a) Supervising and directing the development of the appropriate framework for the monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action to ensure its maximum implementation;

(b) Co-ordinating the activities and maintaining liaison with the Directors of the network of existing research institutes with the purpose of exchanging data information and knowledge;

(c) Maintaining liaison with senior officials of other concerned specialized agencies in order to co-ordinate the system-wide response to the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(d) Organizing regional and interregional workshops and seminars for the purpose of exchanging information and experience, and ensuring maximum implementation of the Plan of Action;

(e) Co-ordinating the activities of the National Committees on Aging to ensure maximum implementation of the Plan and a cohesive regional response;

(f) Co-ordinating the substantive backstopping of technical co-operation activities.

12. For this purpose, a minimum of one P-5 post would be required.

13. Further expanded responsibilities would also include assistance in:

(a) Analysing the national reports and country statements delivered at the World Assembly on Aging for the purpose of disseminating information and experience and, through periodic questionnaires, updating information contained therein;

(b) Preparing, on a periodic basis, an updated report on the world aging situation and assisting in other research activities undertaken in this field;

(c) Providing substantive support to national committees and non-governmental organizations with the purpose of maintaining and strengthening the momentum generated by the World Assembly on Aging.

For this purpose, a minimum of one P-3 would be required.

14. The two additional Professional level posts (one P-5 and one P-3) would need to be supported by a General Service secretary. The costs associated with the establishment in Vienna of the above-mentioned three posts would amount to \$87,000 for 1983 as detailed below:

	<u>P-5</u> \$	<u>P-3</u> \$	<u>G-6</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Salaries	28,300	20,200	10,800	59,300
Common staff costs	8,800	6,300	3,300	18,400
Common services costs	3,000	3,000	3,300	9,300
Total	<u>40,100</u>	<u>29,500</u>	<u>17,400</u>	<u>87,000</u>

15. As indicated above and recommended by the Plan of Action, the Secretary-General intends to develop standardized definitions, terms and research methodologies in the field of aging. Because of the highly technical, interdisciplinary nature of this exercise, the Secretary-General would require the services of three consultants for one month, each at \$4,000 a month for a total of \$12,000.

16. The workshops and seminars mentioned above are essential to promote, inter alia, technical co-operation among developing countries. The Secretary-General would consider making use of the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging to the extent of the availability of resources for this purpose.

17. In summary financial implications arising from the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3///37/L.21 would be as follows:

	\$
1 P-5, 1 P-3 and 1 G-6	87,000
3 work-months of consultancy	<u>12,000</u>
Total	<u>99,000</u>

18. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.21, additional appropriations under the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 would be required for 1982 as follows:

	\$
Section 6	89,700
Section 28M	<u>9,300</u>
	<u>99,000</u>

In addition, an appropriation in respect of a provision for staff assessment in an amount of \$17,700 under expenditure section 31 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 would be required. This would be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimates of income under income section 1.
