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Agenda items 73 and 12

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

International Women's Year

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.2, as orally amended

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

1. At its 2080th meeting, the Third Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.2, as orally amended. At an earlier meeting, a statement of financial implications (A/C.3/L.2126), based on the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1, had been circulated. In it, the Committee had been informed as follows:

"1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to establish a consultative committee for the International Women's Conference composed of representatives of not more than 18 Member States designated by the President of the Third Committee after consultation with the different regional groups, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.

"2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be requested to convene the consultative committee to advise him on the preparation of an international plan of action to be launched at the International Women's Conference, at United Nations Headquarters or in Geneva, not later than March 1975.

"3. The financial implications of implementing paragraph 4 of the above-mentioned draft resolution are based on the following assumptions:

"(a) That the consultative committee would meet at United Nations Headquarters for 10 days during the period 24 February to 7 March 1975;

"(b) That as the members of the consultative committee would be representatives of Governments, the travel expenses related to their attendance at the session of the consultative committee would be met by the respective Governments concerned;

"(c) That there would be not more than two meetings a day during the session of the consultative committee;

"(d) That interpretation and translation services would be provided in five languages, namely, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish;

"(e) That total documentation requirements would total 130 pages consisting of 40 pages of pre-session documentation, 60 pages of in-session documentation and 30 pages of post-session documentation.

"4. On the basis of the above assumptions, the financial implications of convening a meeting of the consultative committee are estimated at \$13,000 for translation and reproduction and \$18,000 for interpretation. In this connexion, it is noted that a certain amount of the documentation to be submitted to the consultative committee would also be used for the International Women's Conference, with resulting savings on the Conference budget.

"5. The available dates for convening the session of the consultative committee at United Nations Headquarters are 6 to 17 January 1975 and 24 February to 7 March 1975. If the session were to be convened from 6 to 17 January 1975, the Secretary-General considers that interpretation, translation, typing and reproduction of the documentation of the consultative committee could be provided from resources already made available for these purposes in the 1974-1975 biennium. However, it would not be possible to complete the substantive preparation by that date, and the Secretary-General considers that the most appropriate date for convening the session of the consultative committee would be during the period 24 February to 7 March 1975, when documentation could be provided from within available resources, but an additional appropriation of \$18,000 for interpretation would be required."

2. Among the changes introduced in the text of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.2, as orally amended, were a deletion of the reference to the possibility of convening the consultative committee in Geneva and an amendment to operative paragraph 5, so that in its present form it reads:

"Decides that all the costs of convening the consultative committee, including travel expenses of its members, will be met from the Voluntary Fund established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1850 (LVI);"

3. The Secretary of the Committee noted that adoption of operative paragraph 5 would authorize an exception to the principle established in General Assembly

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resolution 1798 (XVII) and thereby authorize the payment of travel and subsistence to the members of the consultative committee. This was estimated at \$27,000.

4. At its 2080th meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Chairman of the Third Committee be invited, as observer, to participate in the work of the consultative committee. The cost would be approximately \$2,000.

5. The total cost of convening the consultative committee, aside from the cost of documentation, which can be met from within available resources, would then be:

Interpretation . . . . .	\$ 18,000
Travel and subsistence of members of the consultative committee and of the Chairman of the Third Committee . . . . .	 29,000
	<u>47,000</u>

As indicated in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution (see paragraph 2 above), these costs would be met from voluntary funds.

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