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Agenda items 73 and 12

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Administrative and financial implications of the draft  
resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1374/Rev.1

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

1. At its 1645th meeting the Second Committee adopted resolution A/C.2/L.1374/Rev.1 concerning the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation. During its consideration of the resolution the Committee had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.2/L.1420).
2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1374/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Economic and Social Council to convene the Preparatory Committee of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation, the first session of which shall be short and essentially organizational in nature and held not later than early March 1975, the second in June, at which as much as possible of the work should be completed and a third thereafter, as required, at an appropriate date.
3. During the discussion of the draft resolution, it became clear that the Second Committee envisaged that the second session in June should be of at least two weeks' duration. In view of the heavy programme of meetings to be held in June at Headquarters and Geneva, and the fact that all of the main conference rooms and most of the existing staff as well as free-lance language staff in New York and Geneva have already been committed to these and other meetings, conference services for the second session could be provided for a one-week meeting to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1975 only. It would not be possible for the duration of the second session to be extended by one week or more in June, unless an appropriate adjustment were made to the calendar of meetings by either rescheduling or reducing the duration of one of the following meetings now scheduled to be held at Headquarters and Geneva in June 1975:

(a) Meetings scheduled to be held at Headquarters in June 1975

Special Committee of 24	Last week of January to first week of July
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	6 May-11 July
Committee on Review and Appraisal	12 May-6 June
Trusteeship Council	27 May-20 June
<u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee on the Indian Ocean	2-20 June
United Nations Board of Auditors	2-20 June
Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	9-20 June
Preparatory Committee on the special session of the General Assembly devoted to development and international economic co-operation	23-27 June
United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board - Committee of Actuaries	May/June (3 days)
Security Council	As required
Security Council - Committee established in pursuance of resolution 253 (1968)	As required
United Nations Council for Namibia	As required
Special Committee on <u>Apartheid</u>	As required
Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations	As required
Committee on Relations with the Host Country	As required

(b) Meetings scheduled to be held at Geneva in June 1975

UNCTAD - United Nations Tin Conference	20 May-20 June
International Narcotics Control Board	May/June (17 days)
International Law Commission	5 May-25 July
ILO - 60th International Labour Conference	4-26 June
UNCTAD - Committee on Manufactures, seventh session	23 June-4 July

Meeting of Executive Secretaries of Regional Commissions	23-25 and 28 June
Joint Meeting of CPC/ACC	30 June-1 July
Statistical Commission - Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-rodination	30 June-2 July
UNDP - Governing Council	9-27 June
UNDP - Governing Council, Budgetary and Finance Committee	9-27 June
UNITAR - Annual Meeting of Directors of Institutes within the United Nations Family	June/July (3 days)
Economic Commission for Europe	As required

4. After consideration of the information given in document A/C.2/L.1420, the Second Committee, bearing in mind the urgent need to ensure that the special session of the Assembly is adequately prepared, decided to request, by means of a letter from the Chairman to the President of the General Assembly, that in its consideration of the relevant financial implications, the Fifth Committee make appropriate arrangements - including, if necessary, adjustments in the calendar of meetings - to ensure that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held in the month of June 1975, as provided in operative paragraph 2 (a) of draft resolution A/C.2/L.1374/Rev.1, for a period of at least two weeks and at a time which would enable the Preparatory Committee to report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session.

5. The Secretary-General, for his part, will initiate consultations with bodies that are scheduled to meet during the week of 16-20 June 1975 with a view to establishing a schedule of meetings during that week that will permit the Preparatory Committee of the special session of the General Assembly to meet from 16-27 June.

6. The financial implications of implementing operative paragraph 2 (a) of the draft resolution are based on the following:

(a) That the first session of the Preparatory Committee would be held at Headquarters from 3 to 7 March 1975, the second session at Headquarters from 16 to 27 June and the third session at Headquarters or Geneva from 18 to 22 August 1975;

(b) That there would be no more than two meetings a day during each of the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

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

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(d) That documentation requirements for the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee would not exceed 460 pages consisting of:

(i) Pre-session documentation	First session: 20 pages Second session: 200 pages Third session: 50 pages
(ii) In-session documentation	First session: 10 pages Second session: 120 pages Third session: 30 pages
(iii) Post-session documentation	First session: 10 pages Second session: 75 pages Third session: 30 pages

7. Conference servicing costs for the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee are shown below with costs generated by the additional week for the second session in June shown separately:

	All sessions one week each	One addi- tional week (2nd session)	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Interpretation	18,700	6,200	24,900
Translation and typing of documentation	34,100	6,200	40,300
Reproduction, printing and distribution of documentation	23,400	2,600	26,000
	<u>76,200</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>91,200</u>

8. The added cost for the second week of the second session is calculated on the basis of the following assumptions:

- (a) Interpretation costs for the second session would double;
- (b) In-session documentation would increase from the 60 pages originally foreseen to 120 pages;
- (c) Post-session documentation would increase by 50 per cent to 75 pages;
- (d) Reproduction, printing and distribution of documentation costs would grow in proportion to documentation increases.

9. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be required to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a comprehensive report on the state of international economic

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activities, focusing on constraints of a general policy nature which face the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as the International Development Strategy.

10. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be further requested, in effective and close consultation with Member States, to appoint immediately a small group of high-level experts, selected on a broad geographical basis and nominated by Governments, to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a study containing proposals on structural changes within the United Nations system so as to make it fully capable of dealing with problems of international co-operation in a comprehensive manner.

11. No financial implications would arise with respect to the implementation of operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the draft resolution as the Secretary-General expects to meet the related requirements for staff travel, consultants' services and meetings of the high-level expert group from within the resources made available for these purposes in the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 in response to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3172 (XXVIII). 1/ As for the report, it would be considered a necessary part of the current work programme of the Organization.

12. Should the General Assembly adopt resolution A/C.2/L.1374/Rev.1, an appropriation of \$91,200 would be required under section 6 of the Programme Budget for the biennium 1974-1975. This requirement would be reduced if savings were to result from adjustments in the meeting schedule.

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1/ See documents A/C.5/1587 and A/9458.