



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/1659
11 December 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-ninth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 73 and 26

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-1975

THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/L.747

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

1. Under the terms of the draft resolution contained in document A/L.747 the General Assembly would:

(a) approve convening the third session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea for the period 17 March to 10 May 1975 at Geneva;

(b) authorize the Conference to include Arabic as an official and working language;

(c) note the decision of the Conference to accept the invitation of the Government of Venezuela to meet in Caracas at an appropriate date for the purpose of signing the Final Act and related instruments adopted by the Conference, and authorize the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to that end.

2. The programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 did not contain provision for sessions of the Conference to be held in 1975. The estimates presented below take into account the experience of the requirements for the second session of the Conference held at Caracas in June-August 1974, and the stage of development of the work of the Conference reached at the end of that session. To the extent possible, the Secretary-General has taken into account when preparing these estimates, the permanent staff which can be made available to service the Conference.

3. In respect of the third session of the Conference, they provide for the following:

- interpretation for 12 meetings per day of which not more than 6 would be held simultaneously; it is assumed that of the 12, not more than 8 (4 simultaneously) would require interpretation in all languages of the Conference; more limited coverage would be required for 4 meetings per day (2 simultaneously);
- summary records for six meetings per day;
- in-session documentation, other than summary records, of 2,000 pages;
- augmentation of Geneva staff of the Office of Public Information by three information officers, two of whom would be detailed from Headquarters in view of their knowledge of the proceedings at Caracas.

The provision for summary records for six meetings per day reflects the fact that such records are required for plenary meetings, formal meetings of the three Main Committees, and the General Committee; it is assumed, based on Caracas experience, that not more than three of these bodies would meet simultaneously.

4. It is anticipated that 300 pages of pre-session documentation will be required. Provision is made for the printing of the proceedings of the third session of the Conference in the same manner as for its first and second sessions.

5. Based on the assumptions stated above, and under rules 56-58 of the rules of procedure of the Conference regarding languages and records, the cost of the third session of the Conference at Geneva is estimated at \$2,159,000. Of this amount, \$43,000 relates to pre-session documentation, \$1,632,000 to the sessional expenses, and \$484,000 to establishing and printing the proceedings. In more detail, the estimates are as follows:

	\$	\$
(a) <u>Pre-session documentation</u> (approximately 300 pages)		
(i) Translation and typing	24,000	
(ii) Reproduction	<u>19,000</u>	43,000
(b) <u>Interpretation:</u>		
(i) Temporary assistance (53 interpreters)	317,900	
(ii) Travel and subsistence of 12 interpreters to be assigned from Headquarters	<u>36,800</u>	354,700
(c) <u>Summary Records</u> (approximately 3,800 pages)		
(i) Temporary assistance (54 translators/précis-writers; 12 revisers; 54 stenotypists; 21 reproduction clerks; 6 distribution clerks)	464,400	

	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
(ii) Travel and subsistence of 18 translators, 5 revisers, and 14 calligraphers, to be assigned from Headquarters	<u>108,000</u>	572,400
(d) <u>In-session documentation</u> (approximately 2,000 pages)		
(i) Temporary assistance (26 translators; 13 revisers; 34 stenotypists; 14 reproduction clerks; 12 distribution clerks)	294,800	
(ii) Travel and subsistence of 14 translators, 7 revisers, and 11 calligraphers to be assigned from Headquarters	<u>98,000</u>	392,800
(e) <u>Supporting staff</u>		
(i) Headquarters Secretariat staff: Travel and subsistence of up to 32 substantive staff, and 13 General Services staff	130,000	
(ii) Temporary assistance to be recruited in Geneva (9 secretaries; reference clerks, meeting room assistants, documents clerks, technicians, ushers, and messengers)	<u>90,200</u>	220,200
(f) <u>Office of Public Information:</u>		
Temporary assistance, 2 information officers	6,800	
Travel and subsistence of 2 information officers to be assigned from Headquarters	<u>5,600</u>	12,400
(g) <u>Other expenses</u>		
(i) Supplies for reproduction of summary records and in-session documentation	33,500	
(ii) Freight on documentation, cables, other communications, and miscellaneous supplies	40,000	
(iii) Hospitality	<u>6,000</u>	79,500
(h) <u>Printing the proceedings</u> (approximately 2,200 printed pages)		
(i) Temporary assistance for editing, copy preparation and proofreading	47,000	
(ii) External printing	<u>437,000</u>	484,000
Total		<u>2,159,000</u>

6. If the Assembly decides, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution contained in document A/L.747, to authorize the Conference to include Arabic as an official and working language of the Conference, the Secretary-General estimates that for the third session of the Conference at Geneva the additional expenditure would amount to approximately \$491,000 as follows:

	<u>\$</u>
(a) Pre-session documentation: contractual translating and typing, plus reproduction	8,000
(b) Interpretation: salary, travel, and subsistence, of 17 interpreters	145,000
(c) Summary records: salary, travel, and subsistence, of 12 translators, 3 revisers, and 14 typists	169,000
(d) In-session documentation: salary, travel, and subsistence of 8 translators, 2 revisers and 8 typists	90,000
(e) Editing, copy preparation, and printing of proceedings	74,000
(f) Miscellaneous expenses, including freight on supplies, office equipment, etc.	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>491,000</u>

7. The Secretary-General assumes that, in the event that the Assembly adopts operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, under which he would be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for the Conference to accept the invitation of the Government of Venezuela to meet at Caracas at an appropriate date, the Government of Venezuela would, in accordance with Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV), defray the excess costs of holding the final session at Caracas over the costs of holding the session at Geneva. The Secretary-General notes that no dates are specified in the draft resolution for holding such a session of the Conference. If it were held in 1975 for a period of three weeks, it is tentatively estimated that the total cost of holding the final session at Geneva would amount to some \$820,000, plus an additional \$143,000 in the event of the inclusion of Arabic in the languages of the Conference. This estimate is based on the assumptions that (a) interpretation would be provided for six meetings per day, (b) summary records would be required for two meetings per day, (c) there would be 500 pages of pre-session documentation, and 500 pages of in-session documentation, (d) there would be 1,100 printed pages of the final proceedings of the Conference, (e) there would be a reduced requirement for travel of substantive staff from Headquarters. However, these assumptions may be modified in the light of developments at the third session of the Conference.

/...

8. In summary:

(a) Should the Assembly adopt operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, additional appropriations of \$2,146,600 and \$12,400 (total \$2,159,000) would be required under sections 3 and 27 respectively of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975. As a consequence of the recruitment of temporary assistance, an additional amount of \$555,000 would be required under section 34 (staff assessment), offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).

(b) In connexion with operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, reference may be made to resolution 3190 (XXVIII) under which the General Assembly decided to include Arabic among the official and working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and the related financing arrangements approved at its 2206th plenary meeting, on 18 December 1973. As resolution 3190 (XXVIII) applied only to use of Arabic by the General Assembly and its Main Committees, should the Assembly adopt operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, a further appropriation of \$491,000 would be required under section 3 of the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 for the third session of the Conference. As a consequence of the inclusion in that amount of provision for recruitment of temporary assistance, a further appropriation of \$118,000 would be required under section 34 (staff assessment) offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1 (income from staff assessment).

(c) Should the Assembly adopt operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, a further additional appropriation tentatively estimated at \$820,000, or \$963,000 if Arabic is included in the languages of the Conference under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution. However, in view of the tentative nature of these estimates, the Secretary-General would propose that detailed estimates of any additional expenditures to be incurred as a result of adoption of operative paragraph 4 should be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1974-1975, once the dates and pattern of the final session of the Conference can be determined.
