



Seventeenth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 34

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

PROPOSED UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Statement by the Secretary-General on administrative
and financial implications

1. In connexion with the United Nations Development Decade, the Netherlands Government has announced, in the General Assembly, that, subject to parliamentary approval, it is prepared to make a special contribution of 3.6 million guilders (equivalent to \$1,000,000 at the present rate of exchange) for the purpose of financing a United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
2. The Secretary-General would propose to accept this generous offer under Financial Regulation 7.2 and to administer the gift as a Trust Fund under Financial Regulations 7.3, 6.6 and 6.7. The Institute might also receive contributions from other sources. At its thirty-fifth session on 8-9 October 1962, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination associated itself with the appreciation expressed by the Secretary-General on learning of the Government's offer.
3. The proposed Institute would be located in Geneva and it is intended that there should be maximum co-operation between it and the United Nations Office at Geneva with the latter providing financial, personnel, housekeeping and documents services to the Institute from within its normal budgetary provisions. Since the arrangements envisaged could also result in some relatively small identifiable

expenses in supplement to the normal Geneva Office requirements, it is desired to acquaint the Fifth Committee with the principles on which services will be made available. These principles are set forth in Part B of this paper although it will not be feasible to indicate, prior to the coming into operation of the Institute in 1964 and the establishment of its programme, the extent to which they might call for supplementary financial provisions.

A. Purpose and Nature of the Institute

4. The purpose of the Institute would be to conduct, over a period of from three to five years, beginning in 1964 (certain organizational work being undertaken in 1963), research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth. It will carry out research and studies which are urgent and important to: (a) the work of the United Nations Secretariat in the field of social policy, social development planning and balanced economic and social development; (b) regional planning institutes already existing or in the process of being set up under the auspices of the United Nations; (c) national institutes in the field of economic and/or social development and planning. The work of the Institute would be co-ordinated with that of the specialized agencies concerned and the results of the research made available to international and national bodies as appropriate.

5. The Institute would be an autonomous United Nations activity. It would be under the supervision of a Board, whose Chairman would be appointed by the Secretary-General. The Board would report to the Social Commission of the Economic and Social Council.

B. Administrative and Financial Arrangements

6. The Institute would have a small staff, the head of which would be appointed by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Board or its chairman. He and the other staff would be United Nations officials, with a status similar to that of staff serving in the regional planning institutes. Their salaries, common staff costs and travel costs would be met from the voluntary contribution. While the strength of staff may vary from year to year, it is estimated that

approximately half of the contribution would be required for professional and clerical staff and related costs, leaving the other half for operational expenses such as field surveys, consultants' fees, mechanical processing of data etc.

7. It is proposed that the costs of common services and premises should be met on the basis set out below. Identifiable direct expenses not related to common services and premises, such as the costs for meetings of the Institute's Board, should be borne by the voluntary contribution as in the case of direct staff costs and operational expenses.

(a) Premises. As noted above, the Institute would be located in Geneva. There is no free space in the Palais des Nations, but the General Assembly has elsewhere been informed that the United Nations will, until the World Health Organization leaves the Palais, require to rent outside space and is hopeful of being able to obtain this in the Palais Wilson. Should this be agreed, space for the Institute could be provided in the Palais Wilson at no extra cost and no charge would be made to it for rent. If, on the other hand, special premises have to be obtained for the Institute, it will pay the rent from its budget.

(b) Office supplies, normal office equipment, library services, financial and personnel services, and other housekeeping services will be provided under the United Nations budget. Internal documents reproduction will be furnished to the extent to which the Geneva Office can provide within its normal resources.

(c) Printing and translation will be based on programmes to be determined by the Board and the cost borne by the voluntary contribution. In cases where these services relate to work required by the United Nations Secretariat for its work programme, however, they will be provided in kind through the United Nations Office at Geneva. Special arrangements for printing and translation could be made with other bodies, as required.

8. The Secretary-General will prepare necessary special financial rules for the Institute for review and approval during 1963 by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

9. This paper is presented to the Fifth Committee with the request that it take note of the proposed arrangements for the Institute. It should be noted that the arrangements proposed do not involve supplementary financial requirements for the United Nations in 1963.