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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.7

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

1. The Special Political Committee, at its 33rd meeting held on 19 November 1982 adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.7. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/SPC/37/L.9).
2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.7 the General Assembly would, "decide, upon the recommendations of the Conference that the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be directed towards the following objectives:
 - (a) Promotion of greater exchange of actual experiences with specific applications;
 - (b) Promotion of greater co-operation in space science and technology between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries;
 - (c) Development of a fellowship programme for in-depth training of space technologists and applications specialists, with the help of Member States and relevant international organizations; establishment and regular up-dating of lists containing available fellowships in all States and relevant international organizations;

(d) Organization of regular seminars on advanced space applications and new system developments for managers and leaders of space application and technology development activities as well as seminars for users in specific applications for durations as appropriate;

(e) Stimulation of the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological base, to the extent possible, in space technology in developing countries with the co-operation of other United Nations agencies and/or Member States or members of the specialized agencies;

(f) Dissemination - through panel meetings, seminars, etc. - of information on new and advanced technology and applications, with emphasis on their relevance and implications for developing countries;

(g) Provision or arrangement for provision of technical advisory services on space applications projects, upon request by Member States or any of the specialized agencies."

3. These objectives can be achieved by means of development of human resources, so as to enable all countries to participate in and derive greater benefits from the United Nations space applications programme. A vital element in this is the provision of 100 fellowships a year for in-depth, on-the-job or academic training. Other measures aimed at developing human resources include the conduct of short-term seminars (four per year), special seminars for managers or prospective leaders of space programmes (two per year) and assistance to Member States in the organization of national training programmes, particularly through the provision of instructors. A further and important step is the provision of assistance in the setting up of regional training centres. Other measures which may contribute to the achievement of the objectives would incorporate provision of consultancy services, technical advisory services, expert studies and some other services. It is noted that the scope and the size of the proposed new or expanded activities would depend mainly upon the availability of voluntary contributions of States, either in money or in kind.

4. In order to achieve the requested objectives, the Secretary-General proposes the conversion of the D-1 post of the expert on space applications, currently financed from consultant funds for which 1982-1983 budget provides \$93,700, to an established post which would require in 1983 an additional amount of \$23,700 for salary and common staff costs. The incumbent of this post, in addition to his present functions as United Nations expert on space applications, would have to assist the head of the Outer Space Affairs Division in raising voluntary contribution for the expanded programme on space applications. In view of the fact that these responsibilities/functions have been full-time in nature and cannot be defined as either consultancy or temporary assistance, it is necessary that the incumbent be a regular staff member of the United Nations Secretariat. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of a P-5 post for a senior technical officer who will be responsible for several of the new activities particularly technical advisory services to Member States on space communication and remote sensing under the expanded United Nations Space Applications Programme. The cost of this post would amount in 1983 to \$37,100 for salary and common staff costs.

5. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide "to establish an International Space Information Service, initially consisting of a directory of sources of information and data services to provide direction upon request to accessible data banks and information services".

6. In order to meet these requirements the Secretary-General proposes to redeploy within the Outer Space Affairs Division a P-4 post to provide for a senior information communication scientist who will establish and manage the newly recommended International Space Information Service. An expansion of the existing space library and a regular newsletter for dissemination of information will constitute a part of this service. It is understood that future expansion of this activity will be considered later on the basis of needs and experience of its functioning.

7. Under the terms of operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request "the Secretary-General to strengthen the Outer Space Affairs Division with an appropriate augmentation of technical personnel and decides, upon the recommendation of the Conference, that all new or expanded activities contained in this resolution are to be funded mainly through voluntary contributions of States in money or in kind, as well as through the rearrangement of priorities within the United Nations next regular budget".

8. It is the hope of the Secretary-General that voluntary funds will be forthcoming that will enable the Outer Space Affairs Division to be adequately strengthened. In the meantime, in order to maintain the momentum gathered by the Conference, and in advance of the rearrangement of priorities anticipated for the budget for 1984-85, the Secretary-General proposes provision of funds for 1983 for temporary assistance at the P-5 level for a technical specialist on space science and technology to assist in the co-ordination of the international technical studies. The related costs for 1983 would amount to \$37,100. The Secretary-General would keep under consideration a possibility of providing additional staffing resources to the Outer Space Affairs Division from voluntary contributions in 1983 depending on the level of the voluntary contributions received, and taking into account the parallel requirement to use voluntary contributions for operational purposes.

9. The total estimated staff costs of implementing the resolutions, as indicated in paragraphs 4 and 8 above, are \$97,900. In addition, common services requirements would amount to \$22,400. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/37/L.7, an additional appropriation would be required under Section 2 (\$97,900) for salary, common staff costs and general temporary assistance, and under Section 28 (\$22,400) for common services costs. In addition, an amount of \$21,000 would be required for staff assessment in Section 31, offset by an equivalent amount in Income Section 1.
