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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES;
ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA

International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/C.3/37/L.43 (as orally revised)

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

1. The Third Committee, at its 61st meeting held on 2 December 1982, adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.43, as orally revised. It had before it a statement of financial implications A/C.3/37/L.61.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, as orally revised, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to convene at Geneva during 1984 an International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa with the view to:

(a) Thoroughly review the results of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa of 1981 as well as the state of the progress of projects submitted to it;

(b) Consider the continuing need for assistance with a view to providing, as necessary, additional assistance to refugees and returnees in Africa for the implementation of programmes for their relief, rehabilitation and resettlement;

(c) Consider the impact imposed on the national economies of the African countries concerned and to provide them with required assistance to strengthen their social and economic infrastructure to cope with the burden of dealing with large numbers of refugees and returnees.

3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, as orally revised, the General Assembly would request further the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the OAU and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to consult with the concerned African countries with regard to their needs for dealing adequately with the problem of refugees and returnees, and in this respect, to submit a report on the situation in each country to enable the proposed International Conference to have an up-to-date assessment, by priority, of the humanitarian, rehabilitation and resettlement needs of the refugees and returnees, and the assistance required by the countries concerned to strengthen existing services, facilities and infrastructure and for this purpose to reallocate existing resources.

4. Under operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate financial and budgetary arrangements are made to cover the expenses for the preparation of the report called for in paragraph 6 above as well as for the organization of the International Conference in 1984.

5. To assist in the preparation of the report referred to in operative paragraph 6, the High Commissioner for Refugees would contribute in the area of his competence within his existing budgetary resources. In addition, however, an assessment of the assistance required to strengthen existing services, facilities and infrastructure in host countries would be required.

6. It is anticipated that the preparation of this latter input to the report would be undertaken by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and would require the engagement of a consultant at the Assistant Secretary-General level who would be expected to consult with Heads of Government and Ministers as well as the appropriate substantive government departments in the countries involved. Approximately six months are estimated as required to undertake a proper assessment of the countries concerned and to write the report. There would be a minimum of three missions to Africa in 1983 in order to cover the 21 countries. Each mission would cover a group of countries, as follows, although it could be that, due to the changing refugee/returnee situation, changes would have to be made to the below itineraries at the time of implementation:

Mission A) Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda (8 weeks);

Mission B) Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Zaire, Nigeria, Ghana (7 weeks);

Mission C) Liberia, Senegal, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Zimbabwe, Swaziland (6 weeks).

7. Expenditures would be incurred in 1983 in respect of the fee and travel of the consultant, and the travel of a professional staff member to accompany the consultant, as well as for operational items such as communications, photocopying and office supplies in the field, and secretarial assistance, as needed, during the missions. The total costs would be as follows:

	\$	\$
I. Consultant costs		
Fee (Total of 28 weeks at ASG level)		40 000
Travel and subsistence 3 missions (21 weeks)	27 600	
Round trip travel to, and subsistence in New York (7 weeks)	<u>7,900</u>	
		35 500
II. Travel and subsistence of staff 3 missions (21 weeks)		20 200
III. General operating expenses 3 missions		<u>3 000</u>
TOTAL		<u><u>98 700</u></u>

8. Efforts will be made to absorb the costs indicated above within existing resources.

9. In connexion with the implementation of operative paragraphs 5 and 8, the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa would be expected to be held in Geneva in 1984 for two days. The report referred to in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would be the pre-session documentation which would have been sent to all interested parties before the Conference. It is envisaged that this report might be some 175 pages in length and would be prepared in the six languages of the United Nations. In-session documentation and post-session documentation, also in six languages, would amount to some 20 pages each. Both pre-session and post-session documentation would be handled at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Since it is anticipated that one of the purposes of the Conference would be for the announcement of voluntary contributions, summary records would be provided in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/14 C. .

10. Funds for travel to the Conference by four substantive staff at Headquarters would also be required. An Under-Secretary-General, a Director, a Professional at the P-5 level and a General Service staff member would arrive in Geneva three days before the Conference for preparations and consultations. Information activities concerning the Conference would be covered by the staff of the Department of Public Information in Geneva and local staff engaged to augment existing staff for the period of the Conference. The costs related to the Conference are summarized below.

Conference servicing requirements

	\$	\$
I. Standard conference servicing requirements		
A. Pre-session (70 000 words; A,C,E,F,R,S)	162 900	
B. Meeting servicing (A,C,E,F,R,S)	12 000	
C. In-session (8 000 words; A,C,E,F,R,S)	14 400	
D. Post-session (8 000 words; A,C,E,F,R,S)	19 300	
E. Summary records (4 meetings; A,C,E,F,R,S)	29 900	
F. OGS requirements	<u>8 100</u>	<u>246 600</u>
II. Additional requirements:		
A. Travel of substantive staff	11 700	
B. Travel of representatives of national liberation movements	12 000	
C. Information activities staff (local salaries)	2 000	
D. Reception for approximately 300 participants	4 500	
	<u> </u>	<u>30 200</u>
Total		<u>276 800</u>

11. The total cost anticipated for the Conference at this time amounts to \$276,800, of which an amount of \$246,600 relates to standard requirements for conference servicing and is based on full cost at 1983 rates. This amount, plus the \$30,200 representing travel and other costs, would be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

12. Therefore, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.43, no additional appropriation would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.