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Thirty-seventh session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 103 and 74 (a)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: OFFICE  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/C.2/37/L.82/Rev.1 as orally revised

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

1. At its 47th meeting, held on 8 December 1982, the Second Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.82/Rev.1 as orally revised. It had before it a statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/37/L.107).
2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.82/Rev.1 as orally revised, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to raise the normal maximum of \$30,000 to \$50,000, the additional \$20,000 to come from voluntary sources, to permit the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to respond with grants to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster. In operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be authorized to permit the Co-ordinator to mobilize additional voluntary resources to meet the needs presented by complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude.
3. In operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate its desire to further strengthen and improve the capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) to take full advantage of information provided by existing early-warning systems and to co-ordinate, to the extent feasible and useful, all relevant early-warning systems, taking into account new technological developments in this field, including communications.

Preparatory studies on this subject are being undertaken within existing resources. Should these studies indicate that it would be feasible and useful for UNDRO to co-ordinate the relevant early-warning systems, any additional resources required for such co-ordination would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985.

4. Under the terms of operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reaffirm its belief that the strengthening and reinforcing of UNDRO offers the most efficient and economical means of effectively co-ordinating the relief activities of the United Nations system as a whole in the interest of the survivors of disasters, and it would request the Secretary-General to assign a higher priority to strengthening, preferably within the means at his disposal, the financial and manpower resources of the Office.

5. The recent practice of entrusting UNDRO with lead responsibilities in the case of complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude, notably in Angola, Chad and Lebanon, has resulted in an increased workload for UNDRO. Disaster relief assessment missions have increased from 10 in 1981 to 27 in 1982 and emergency grants have risen from 12 to 17 over the same period. To meet these increased responsibilities, and to ensure a timely response to disaster-stricken countries, the Relief Co-ordination and Preparedness Branch of UNDRO should be strengthened with a new post at the P-5 level for a senior relief co-ordination officer. The Branch has a current strength of seven relief co-ordination officers and two senior relief co-ordination officers. In certain months, it has been necessary for the Branch to co-ordinate relief assistance in as many as six or even eight disasters simultaneously thereby reducing its effectiveness in responding adequately to the circumstances and delaying the implementation of ongoing disaster preparedness projects. The incumbent of the new posts would be required, together with the other relief co-ordination officers, to assess the impact of disasters, prepare situation reports identifying specific relief requirements and mobilize as well as co-ordinate international emergency assistance, including the planning and monitoring of the implementation of relief programmes. In addition, the officer would plan and implement disaster preparedness projects requested by Governments.

6. A new post at the P-3 level would also be required in the Data Communications Unit of UNDRO to strengthen its information capabilities. The Unit has a current strength of two officers in the Professional category. Its responsibilities involve the maintenance of a data bank that provides information on the state of disaster preparedness in individual countries and regions for transmission to all potential donors as required, maintains a roster of experts for disaster prevention, preparedness and relief as well as provides information on disaster-related relief supplies and equipment and the sources of supply. The incumbent of the new P-3 post would, in the main, be responsible for developing and maintaining the register of emergency supplies. The Unit would also require a new General Service post for a data processing clerk.

7. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.82/Rev.1 as orally revised, additional appropriations of \$96,300 in 1983 would be requested under Section 22, UNDRO, as follows:

	\$
Salaries	
One senior relief co-ordination officer (P-5)	33 600
One information co-ordination officer (P-3)	24 000
One data processing clerk (G-S)	18 700
Common staff costs	<u>20 000</u>
Total:	<u>96 300</u> a/

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a/ Salaries and common staff costs are costed with the standard turnover deduction of 50 per cent for the new Professional posts and 35 per cent for the new General Service post.

8. An additional appropriation would also be required for staff assessment in Section 31, offset by an equal amount in Income Section 1, as follows:

	\$
Staff assessment, Section 31	21 700
Income from staff assessment, Income Section 1	<u>(21 700)</u>
Total:	<u>-</u>

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