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Agenda item 107
Advancement of women

The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women**Programme budget implications of draft resolution
A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1****Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly***Summary*

By draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to provide financial assistance to the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on a non-recurrent basis, in a fashion to be determined, in order to enable it to continue its activities throughout 2001.

If the General Assembly decides to provide financial assistance to the Institute, this could be done only through the provision of additional funds under the regular budget of the United Nations. The fashion in which this assistance could be provided would be decided by the Fifth Committee in the context of its consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly during its fifty-fifth session on additional possibilities to support the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in fulfilling its personnel and administrative needs in conformity with article VII of its statute;

(b) Decide, in view of the difficult financial situation of the Institute, to provide it with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis, in a fashion to be determined, in order to enable it to continue its activities throughout 2001.

2. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976, in conformity with an earlier decision of the General Assembly (resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975), which was based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. In accordance with article VI, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Institute, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1984/124 of 24 May 1984 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/249 of 9 April 1985, its activities shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and private sources. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 2000/24 of 28 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council decided to amend article VI, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Institute to read:

“The activities of the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, including the United Nations Foundation, private sources and other sources in accordance with article VII of the statute”.

3. In accordance with article VII of the statute of the Institute, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the Institute with appropriate administrative and other support, including financial and personnel services, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and on conditions determined after consultations between the Secretary-General and the Director of the Institute, it being understood that no extra costs to the regular budget of the United Nations are incurred.

4. In accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, reimbursement for programme and administrative support costs should be provided for in respect of all activities financed from trust funds. The amount of the reimbursement should be calculated at the standard rate of 13 per cent of annual expenditure, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980. To the extent that the activities of a trust fund do not warrant the levy of full support costs, exceptions may be made to this provision.

5. The level of reimbursement for the administrative and other support services provided by the United Nations to the Institute in 1983 was set, on the exceptional basis, at 4 per cent of annual expenditure. Those services include (a) budget services: technical reviewing of the Institute's budgets, issuing spending and staffing authorizations; (b) financial services: recording the Institute's transactions in the accounting books, preparing financial statements for inclusion in United Nations official financial reporting, payroll of the internationally recruited staff of the

Institute, receipt and registration of voluntary contributions, investment and management of cash resources; (c) personnel services: recruitment, separation, classification, promotion and contractual review of the Professional staff, as well as preparation of the schedules of salaries and allowances for General Service staff. As long as these services are provided, the related costs are to be reimbursed by the Institute in accordance with article VII of its statute.

6. Under operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide, in view of the difficult financial situation of the Institute, to provide it with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis, in a fashion to be determined, in order to enable it to continue its activities throughout 2001. If the General Assembly decides to provide financial assistance to the Institute, the Assembly could do so only through the regular budget. Given the non-reimbursable basis of the proposed financial assistance, it would be understood that the provision of regular budget funds to the Institute would constitute a one-time exception to the provisions of article VI, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Institute, as amended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2000/24, as indicated in paragraph 2 above.

7. As to the fashion in which this assistance should be provided, it is the intention of the Secretary-General to bring this question to the attention of the Fifth Committee. The status of the financial situation of the Institute will be drawn to the attention of the Fifth Committee in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (agenda item 117).
