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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 114 and 64

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

International arms transfers

Programme budget implications of draft resolution  
A/C.1/43/L.22/Rev.2

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

A. Request contained in the revised draft resolution

1. At its 42nd meeting, on 18 November 1988, the First Committee adopted, by a recorded vote of 93 to none, with 36 abstentions, draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.22/Rev.2. A statement of programme budget implication was before the Committee in document A/C.1/43/L.80 and Corr.1.
2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of revised draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.22/Rev.2, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to seek the views and proposals of Member States on the matters contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the revised draft resolution and to collect all other relevant information for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.
3. In operative paragraph 5, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to carry out thereafter, with the assistance of governmental experts, a study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms on a universal and non-discriminatory basis, also taking into consideration the views of Member States as well as other relevant information, including on the problem of illicit arms trade, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

B. Relationship of proposed request to approved programme of work

4. The above request is related to the activities referred to under chapter 1, Political and Security Council affairs activities, programme 2, Activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, subprogramme 3, Studies on disarmament, of the current medium-term plan 1/ as proposed for revision, 2/ and would be covered under section 2B, Department for Disarmament Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, under the subprogramme and programme element dealing with the preparation for and execution of various studies requested by the General Assembly.

C. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the revised draft resolution, the Secretary-General, in order to implement operative paragraph 5, would establish a group of governmental experts. In order to achieve appropriate political and geographical balance, the Group would be comprised of up to 14 experts.

6. It is estimated that the Group would hold four sessions in New York in 1990 and 1991, as follows:

- (a) A one-week session in January 1990;
- (b) A two-week session in July 1990;
- (c) A two-week session in January 1991;
- (d) A two-week session in July 1991.

7. It is assumed that the related conference services would be provided for the sessions on the following basis:

(a) The Group would hold two meetings a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon;

(b) Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly;

(c) There would be a total of 240 pages (8 documents) of documentation to be issued in the six official languages, it being understood that the actual usage would depend on the composition of the Group.

8. The Secretary-General would authorize payment of travel costs and subsistence allowance for the experts participating in the sessions.

9. To assist the Group in its work, it is estimated that six work-months of consultancy services would be required to provide necessary expertise not available in the Secretariat. The consultant would have to have extensive knowledge of arms transfers and the illicit arms trade and be able to make practical suggestions for

ways and means of promoting transparency. The consultant would be expected to attend the sessions of the Group and to assist in preparing successive drafts of the Group's report.

10. It is envisaged that the necessary substantive support services to the Group would be provided by the staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

11. The requirements to undertake the activities contained in paragraphs 5 to 10 above are as follows:

(a) Conference-servicing costs (see annex for breakdown) arising from the session of the Group of Governmental Experts

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
	\$	\$
(i) One-week session in New York in early 1990	53 500	-
(ii) Two-week session in New York in mid-1990	140 200	-
(iii) Two-week session in New York in early 1991	-	146 600
(iv) Two-week session in New York in mid-1991	<u>-</u>	<u>310 800</u>
Total (a)	<u>193 700</u>	<u>457 400</u>

(b) Substantive costs

(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 14 experts for a one- and a two-week session in New York in 1990 and 2 two-week sessions in New York in 1991	116 300	135 700
(ii) Six work-months of consultancy services to present facts and arguments on the subject of arms transfers and the illicit arms trade, and to prepare successive drafts of the Group's report (\$15,500 for each year); travel and daily subsistence allowance for attendance at the sessions of the Expert Group in New York in 1990 and 1991 (\$7,500 for 1990 and \$8,600 for 1991)	<u>23 000</u>	<u>24 100</u>
Total (b)	<u>139 300</u>	<u>159 800</u>

E. Potential for absorption

12. With regard to the estimates of conference-servicing costs indicated in paragraph 11 (a) above, these costs estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services, which would require additional resources for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the calendar of conferences to be approved by the General Assembly for the biennium 1990-1991. Should the Assembly adopt the revised draft resolution, provision would be made in the calendar for the next biennium accordingly.

F. Request for additional appropriation

13. Should the General Assembly adopt revised draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.22/Rev.2, no appropriation would be required under section 2B of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. However, an appropriation of \$299,100 would be required under that section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. These requirements would be dealt with within the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and would therefore be reflected in the budget outline for that biennium.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1) and *ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1).

2/ A/43/6 and Corr.1.

Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF FOUR SESSIONS  
 OF THE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS

	<u>First session</u> (New York, one week) <u>1990</u>	<u>Second session</u> (New York, two weeks) <u>1990</u>	<u>Third session</u> (New York, two weeks) <u>1991</u>	<u>Fourth session</u> (New York, two weeks) <u>1991</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Pre-session documentation</u>				
(30 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	33 000	-	-
(30 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	34 500	-
(100 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	-	110 300
<u>Meeting servicing</u>				
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	47 400	95 000	99 300	99 300
<u>Post-session documentation</u>				
(80 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	-	88 400
<u>Requirements of the Office of the General Services</u>	6 100	12 200	12 800	12 800
<b>Total</b>	<u>53 500</u>	<u>140 200</u>	<u>146 600</u>	<u>310 800</u>

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