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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST THE RECRUITMENT, USE, FINANCING AND TRAINING OF MERCENARIES

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/43/L.13

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

1. At its 51st meeting, on 29 November 1988, the Sixth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/43/L.13 by a vote of 122 to none, with 3 abstentions. A statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee in document A/C.6/43/L.19.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 5, 7 and 10 of draft resolution A/C.6/43/L.13, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee with a view to completing as soon as possible a draft international convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries;

(b) Decide that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold its eighth session early in 1989;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to provide, on a priority basis, the Ad Hoc Committee with any assistance and facilities it might require to hold its eighth session early in 1989;

(d) Decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an

International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries".

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the approved programme of work

3. The activities proposed fall under chapter 3, International justice and law, programme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, subprogramme 2, Study of legal questions and elaboration of codification instruments of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. 1/ Provision has been made under section 26, Legal activities, of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 2/ for the substantive servicing of the Ad Hoc Committee as outlined in programme element 2.2, Substantive servicing of meetings, under programme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, which is carried out by the Codification Division in the Office of Legal Affairs.

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. It is assumed that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/43/L.13, the Ad Hoc Committee would hold a three-week session in 1989 in New York. The meeting would require the provision of interpretation in the six official languages of the General Assembly. There would be 30 pages (4 documents) of pre-session documentation, 60 pages (15 documents) of in-session documentation and 32 pages (1 document) of post-session documentation to be issued in the six official languages of the General Assembly.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

5. The related conference-servicing requirements are estimated on a full-cost basis at \$290,600, broken down as follows:

	\$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u>	
(30 pages, 4 documents, A,C,E,F,R,S)	38 000
II. <u>Meeting servicing</u>	
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	136 300
III. <u>In-session documentation</u>	
(60 pages, 15 documents, A,C,E,F,R,S)	77 200
IV. <u>Post-session documentation</u>	
(32 pages, 1 document, A,C,E,F,R,S)	39 100
Total	290 600

E. Potential for absorption

6. These cost 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 and would require additional resources for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1989. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the programme budget, 3/ the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings were estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditure for the period 1982-1986, and included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates. In other words, provision was made in the programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in this biennium is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years.

F. Summary

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/43/L.13, no additional appropriations would be required under sections 26 or 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989.

Notes

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

2/ A/42/6 (Sect. 26).

3/ A/42/6 (Sect. 29).
