



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/43/56/Add.1
2 December 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 114 and 12

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights
and dignity of all migrant workers

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.69

Addendum

Observations submitted by the Committee on Conferences pursuant
to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of
3 November 1980

1. In accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, by which the Assembly decided that all proposals relating to the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure, the Committee on Conferences met on 1 December 1988 to discuss certain aspects of the proposed programme of work of the open-ended Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.
2. The matter had been brought to the attention of the Committee on Conferences in view of the proposal, contained in operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/43/L.69, by which the General Assembly would decide that, in order to enable it to complete its task as soon as possible, the Working Group should again hold an inter-sessional meeting of two weeks' duration in New York, immediately after the first regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council. Also before the Committee was the related statement of programme budget implications submitted to the Third Committee (A/C.3/43/L.83).

3. As was pointed out in paragraph 8 of that statement, a decision to hold the inter-sessional meetings of the Working Group in New York would constitute an exception to paragraph 4 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243, according to which "United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective established headquarters". Since the substantive secretariat of the Working Group is located at Geneva, the established headquarters of the Working Group is also Geneva.

4. Some delegations noted that the Working Group had requested exceptions to the established headquarters principle in earlier years and wondered if such exceptions were really necessary. In addition, it was stated, the Committee on Conferences had been told when those exceptions had been requested that the Working Group had nearly finished its work. Some delegations considered that the Working Group was not making efficient use of the resources made available to it and that its work was not useful.

5. Other delegations, however, stated that the international convention being drafted by the Working Group would be very important, and no obstacle should be placed in the way of its completion. The exception to the established headquarters rule sought by the Working Group should be granted, and the Committee on Conferences should recommend accordingly, it was stated.

6. In response to a number of questions from delegations, representatives of the Secretariat provided detailed information on the methods of calculating the full cost of meetings services in New York and Geneva; the past meeting pattern of the Working Group; the progress it had made in its work so far and the prospects of finishing its work in 1989; how efficiently the Working Group had used the conference-servicing resources made available to it in the past; the number of substantive staff in New York needed to service the Working Group; whether or not temporary assistance staff would have to be recruited in New York and at Geneva at the time of the Working Group's proposed inter-sessional meeting; and whether or not the United Nations bore the travel and per diem costs of the members of the Working Group.

7. On the basis of that information, the Committee on Conferences decided to recommend that the General Assembly should grant an exception to paragraph 4 of section I of resolution 40/243. In doing so, the Committee, noting that the established headquarters of the Group was only technically or nominally Geneva, took into account all the relevant facts, including the fact that the Working Group had practically completed its substantive consideration of the draft articles of an international convention, and expressed the hope that the Working Group would complete that work at its 1989 session if possible.
