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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Computerization of treaty information and registration and publication
of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of
the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Awn S. AL-KHASAWNEH (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By his note of 14 September 1977 (A/32/214), the Secretary-General reported, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, on the progress of computerization of treaty information and on the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations. Taking into account that the only specific proposal contained in his note (paras. 29 to 34) concerned the implementation of the General Assembly regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter and did not have financial implications, the General Assembly, at its 5th plenary meeting on 23 September 1977, decided to refer the Secretary-General's note to the Sixth Committee.
2. At its 33rd meeting, on 31 October 1977, the Sixth Committee established an informal working group to deal with the matter. The Working Group was composed of the following States, which had been designated by the Committee on a regional basis or which had decided to accept the Committee's invitation to take part in the work of the Working Group: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Finland, France, India, Israel, Poland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
3. The Working Group devoted three meetings to the question, on 10 and 22 November and 1 December. The report of the Working Group contains the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/32/5) and a summary of the discussions held by the Working Group (A/C.6/32/5/Add.1).

II. PROPOSAL

4. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 December 1977, the Working Group adopted, without a vote, the text of the draft resolution (A/C.6/32/5) to be submitted to the Sixth Committee.
5. At the 65th meeting, on 7 December, the Chairman of the Working Group introduced the draft resolution (A/C.6/32/5) which the Sixth Committee adopted by consensus (see para. 6 below).
6. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Computerization of treaty information and registration and publication
of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of
the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the Secretary-General's note concerning the computerization of treaty information and the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

Recalling the General Assembly regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations - as set forth in Assembly resolutions 97 (I) of 14 December 1946, 364 B (IV) of 1 December 1949 and 482 (V) of 12 December 1950 - as well as its resolutions 254 A (III) of 3 November 1948, 364 (IV) of 1 December 1949 and 1092 (XI) of 27 February 1957,

Also recalling its recommendation, made on 14 December 1974 at its 2319th plenary meeting, concerning the notifications that States and international organizations 2/ depositaries of multilateral treaties are called upon to send to the Secretariat, 3/

Noting that the United Nations Treaty Information System, which is expected to become fully operational at the beginning of 1978, has been conceived as an open system, capable of utilizing not only the data resulting from the registration process under Article 102 of the Charter, but all data relating to treaties and international agreements, regardless of their origin,

1/ A/32/214.

2/ Wherever it appears in the resolution, the term "international organizations" is understood, in the light of the 1969 Convention on the Law of Treaties, as applying to intergovernmental organizations. For the text of the Convention, see A/CONF.39/11/Add.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.V.5), pp. 287-301.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631), p. 149 (Other decisions, agenda item 87).

Recalling that the General Assembly has consistently taken the view that treaties and international agreements should be published with the least possible delay and that, in this respect, an interval of one year between registration and publication has generally been held to be reasonable,

Noting in this connexion that, according to the information provided by the Secretary-General, the interval between registration and publication of treaties and international agreements had reached five years as an average at 31 July 1977, while the delay in the administrative process of registration itself amounted to twenty months,

1. Emphasizes anew the importance of having every treaty and every international agreement registered and published as soon as possible in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter and the General Assembly regulations to give effect thereto;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate forthwith, within the means available and in co-operation, as appropriate, with the specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned, such measures as would contribute towards the reduction of the current arrears, both in the field of registration and in the field of publication of treaties and international agreements;

3. Approves, as a temporary measure, the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in paragraphs 29 to 34 of his note with regard to the publication of treaties and international agreements;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to approach as soon as possible the Governments and international organizations concerned, especially those that act as depositaries of multilateral treaties and agreements, in order to ascertain the best means of putting the United Nations Treaty Information System to full use for the benefit of the international community;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session an item entitled "Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations".
