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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1976-1977

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions IV  
and V and draft decision I recommended by the Second Committee  
(A/31/338/Add.2, paras. 50 and 51)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: E. Brian NASON (Ireland)

1. At its 53rd and 56th meetings, on 16 and 19 December 1976, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statements by the Secretary-General concerning the administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions IV and V and draft decision I respectively (A/C.5/31/82, A/C.5/31/89 and A/C.5/31/88) recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, paras. 50 and 51).

A. Draft resolution IV

2. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of draft resolution IV recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, para. 50), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General and the Interagency Task Force, with regard to the exchange of technological information, to continue their work in accordance with paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 3507 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, including the preparation and publication of the pilot directory of United Nations information services (see E/5839, para. 76 (a)) and to submit further conclusions and recommendations on the establishment of a network for the exchange of technological information to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

3. In his statement (A/C.5/31/82), the Secretary-General estimated that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution IV, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$17,600 for the convening of meetings of the Task Force during 1977 would be required under section 5A of the programme budget for 1976-1977.

4. In an oral statement made at the 53rd meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that the Advisory Committee recommended that the \$17,600 be absorbed within the resources already approved for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

#### DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

5. At its 53rd meeting, on 16 December, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution IV recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, para. 50), no additional appropriations would be required under section 5A of the programme budget for 1976-1977.

#### B. Draft resolution V

6. By paragraph 1 of draft resolution V recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, para. 50), the General Assembly would endorse Economic and Social Council resolutions 2028 (LXI) and 2035 (LXI) which relate to the convening and the preparatory period of a United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

7. By paragraph 2 of draft resolution V, the General Assembly would decide to convene the Conference during 1979 in time for the General Assembly to take action at its thirty-fourth session in the light of the results of the Conference.

8. By paragraph 4 of draft resolution V, the Secretary-General would be requested to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference at the earliest possible time at the level of Under-Secretary-General.

9. By paragraph 5 of draft resolution V, the General Assembly would decide that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development should act as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, open to the participation of all States, and that the Preparatory Committee should hold its first session early in 1977 and submit its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session through the Economic and Social Council.

10. By paragraph 8 of draft resolution V, the General Assembly would decide to take a final decision on the question of the site of the Conference at its thirty-second session.

11. In his statement (A/C.5/31/89), the Secretary-General estimated the financial implications of draft resolution V for 1977 at \$1,289,400. Of that amount, \$212,900 would be for conference servicing costs.

12. The extent to which the costs of conference servicing staff might be absorbed from within resources already allocated would be shown in the

consolidated statement of conference costs and any appropriation required for the Conference would be included in that paper. Accordingly, the Secretary-General indicated that an appropriation was being requested at this time to cover only the balance of the requirements in a total amount of \$1,076,500, broken down by section as follows:

|                      | \$      |
|----------------------|---------|
| Section 4 . . . . .  | 597,300 |
| Section 7 . . . . .  | 122,300 |
| Section 8 . . . . .  | 114,600 |
| Section 9 . . . . .  | 127,500 |
| Section 10 . . . . . | 114,800 |

13. In paragraph 36 of his report (A/C.5/31/89), the Secretary-General also stated that any additional financial requirements for the Conference for 1977 would be dealt with under the provisions for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures and submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its spring session. Should requirements on the other hand be less than presently envisaged, the Advisory Committee would be informed accordingly.

14. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in introducing the report of that Committee (A/31/8/Add.21) at the 56th meeting of the Fifth Committee, stated that, in the Advisory Committee's opinion, a request of the magnitude and complexity of the one in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/31/89) called for particularly careful scrutiny. Such scrutiny could not be given in advance of the finalization of the programme of work for 1977 at the January 1977 session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind the Secretary-General's own reservations in paragraph 36 of his report (see para. 13 above), the Advisory Committee concluded that it would confine its examination at this stage to the requirements for the first five months of 1977 and that it should return to this question at the beginning of its spring 1977 session under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3540 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1976-1977. On this understanding, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution V, an additional appropriation of \$363,000 gross (\$323,000 net) would be required at this stage under sections 4, 7, 10 and 25 (the latter offset by a corresponding increase under income section 1), in the programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 and that the Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, and initially under the terms of resolution 3540 (XXX) on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1976-1977, for such additional requirements as might arise in 1977. The amount of \$363,000 gross would exclude conference servicing costs (\$212,900), which would be reviewed in the light of available resources and would be covered in the consolidated statement of conference costs.

# DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

15. At its 56th meeting, on 19 December, the Fifth Committee decided, by 63 votes to 9, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution V recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, para. 50), net additional appropriations in the amount of \$323,000 would be required in the programme budget for 1976-1977, broken down by section as follows:

|   | \$             |
|---|----------------|
| Section 4 (Policy-making organs (Economic and social activities)) . . . . . | 232,000        |
| Section 7 (ESCAP) . . . . .   | 23,000         |
| Section 8 (ECLA) . . . . .  | 22,000         |
| Section 9 (ECA) . . . . .   | 24,000         |
| Section 10 (ECWA) . . . . .   | 22,000         |
| Section 25 (Staff assessment) . . . . .                                     | <u>40,000</u>  |
| TOTAL, gross  | 363,000        |
| Income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) . . . . .                   | <u>40,000</u>  |
| TOTAL, net  | <u>323,000</u> |

## C. Draft decision I

16. Under the terms of draft decision I recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, para. 51), the Committee recommends that the General Assembly, recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1982 (LX) of 19 April 1976 entitled "Participation in the United Nations Water Conference", should decide to include Arabic as an official language of the United Nations Water Conference.

17. In his statement of financial implications (A/C.5/31/88), the Secretary-General indicated that the full cost of the proposal in draft decision I would amount to \$59,900, but that no appropriation would be requested pending the issuance of the consolidated statement of conference costs.

18. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions read a statement at the 53rd meeting of the Fifth Committee stating that the costs connected with draft decision I would be included in the consolidated statement on the cost of conference servicing to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

# DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

19. At its 53rd meeting, on 16 December, the Fifth Committee decided without objection, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft decision I recommended by the Second Committee (A/31/338/Add.2, para. 51), conference servicing costs not exceeding \$59,900 would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of its consideration of the total requirements for the revised calendar of conferences in 1977.