



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/C.5/33/108  
18 December 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Thirty-third session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 70 and 100

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Administrative and financial implications of draft  
resolution A/C.2/33/L.39/Rev.2

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

1. At its 61st meeting on 13 December 1978, the Second Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39/Rev.2, which contain recommendations in paragraphs 3, 6, 7 and 9 that give rise to financial implications.

Operative paragraph 3: Secretary-General's cross-organizational analysis

2. Operative paragraph 3 requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee a supplement to "Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system" analysing output, gaps and/or overlap of present United Nations activities in the area of science and technology for development as a background document for the consideration of the draft programme of action, bearing in mind the views expressed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session. To carry out the extensive review called for by operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution would require a considerable amount of specialized expert assistance on very short notice. The minimum requirements envisaged are estimated as follows:

Table 1

Salaries	1979	
	\$	\$
Consultants (5) at D-1 level for four months	91,400	
Researchers (2) at P-4/3 level for four months	25,600	117,000
Travel and subsistence		34,600
	Total	<u>151,600</u>

3. It is necessary to recall at this point, however, that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/209, the Secretary-General has been requested to achieve savings in respect of the amounts approved in the programme budget for 1978-1979 for consultants and experts. Furthermore, in compliance with the same resolution, the Secretary-General is committed not to request further resources under this object of expenditure during the current biennium.

4. As additional activities involving consultants are also being proposed in connexion with operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, it is to be expected that existing appropriations for consultants and experts will be entirely consumed. Therefore, should the General Assembly approve the activities proposed in operative paragraph 3, the possibility of absorbing the consultant costs out of savings would not exist. It follows from the above considerations that the Secretary-General of the Conference could not be provided with the resources to carry out the activities referred to under operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution without further action by the General Assembly.

5. Moreover, even if the estimated resources needed became available at the outset of 1979, it is doubtful whether the objective stated in operative paragraph 3 could be achieved within the time-frame available before the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

6. In view of the fact that the basic responsibility for cross-organizational analysis of this type falls within the mandate of the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Office in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), the Secretary-General of the Conference has asked DIESA for its assistance in this regard. Accordingly, this study, if undertaken, would be carried out under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning and Co-ordination in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation would provide over-all guidance in this work.

Operative paragraph 6: Preparatory Committee meetings

7. By operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide, in view of the time constraints and the desirability of reaching maximum agreement on substantive issues before the convening of the Conference, that necessary facilities should be provided to enable the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, if it so decides, to extend the duration of its currently scheduled meetings.

8. If the General Assembly were to approve draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39/Rev.2 the Secretary-General would, with respect to the decision in paragraph 6, be required to make preparations for a potential extension of the third and fourth Preparatory Committee meetings currently scheduled to take place from 22 January to 2 February 1979 and from 7 to 18 May 1979.

9. Should the General Assembly so decide, and, accordingly, the meetings of the Preparatory Committee be extended, additional costs of conference services are estimated on the basis of the following assumptions:

(a) That the additional period would, in each case, be two weeks;

(b) That the meetings would be held at United Nations Headquarters;

(c) That the languages of the meetings would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish;

(d) That no additional pre-session documentation other than Chinese would be required beyond that already anticipated for the base meetings;

(e) That in-session documentation would be increased in proportion to the meeting extension;

(f) That post-session documentation would be increased by 30 pages.

10. These assumptions would produce the costs of a single two-week extension in the amount of \$110,900, broken down as follows:

Table 2

	1979		
	\$	\$	\$
Pre-session services			
Documentation (80 pages)			
Translation/revision	3,700		
Typing	1,000		4,700
In-session services			
Documentation (60 pages)			
Translation/revision	18,000		
Typing	4,700	22,700	
Interpretation		51,200	
Conference staff		600	
General services		9,600	84,100
Post-session services			
Documentation (30 pages)			
Translation/revision	7,400		
Typing	1,900	9,300	
Reproduction and distribution		12,800	22,100
Grand total			<u>110,900</u>

A fifth session of the Preparatory Committee

11. If the General Assembly should decide to hold a fifth session of the Preparatory Committee in 1979, instead of extending the duration of currently scheduled sessions, the assumptions used in calculating the full cost would be as follows:

- (a) That the meeting would take place in New York;
- (b) That its duration would be two weeks;
- (c) That the languages of the meeting would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish;
- (d) That no simultaneous meetings would be held.

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Table 3

	1979		
	\$	\$	\$
Pre-session services			
Documentation (175 pages)			
Translation/revision	47,100		
Typing	12,100		59,200
In-session services			
Documentation (60 pages)			
Translation/revision	16,000		
Typing	4,200	20,200	
Interpretation		51,200	
Conference staff		600	
General services		9,600	81,600
Post-session services			
Documentation (30 pages)			
Translation/revision	7,400		
Typing	1,900		9,300
Reproduction and distribution			12,800
Travel of language staff			43,400
Grand total			206,300

12. The General Assembly may wish to consider that, should it empower the Preparatory Committee to extend the duration of its currently scheduled sessions or hold an additional session, facilities could not be made available without rescheduling other meetings. In that event, it would be necessary for the General Assembly to decide which body or bodies currently scheduled to meet under the calendar of conferences should be rescheduled.

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Operative paragraph 7: Continuation of national, regional and interregional preparations

13. By paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary arrangements are made for the continuation of national, regional and interregional preparations for the Conference, including the requisite financial provisions.

14. At the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, in document A/C.5/32/39, requested funds to finance the required advisory services for national preparations in 1978. It was then estimated that 100 work-months of advisory services in 1978 would be required at a cost estimated at \$660,000. In reviewing this estimate, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions doubted that the entire 100 work-months could be used within the period foreseen (January-August 1978) and recommended a reduction of \$110,000, the effect of which was to reduce the work-months available in 1978 to approximately 83.

15. During the debate in the Fifth Committee, some members supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the understanding that, should the Secretary-General's estimates of work-month requirements prove accurate, the Advisory Committee would favourably consider a request for additional funds under the provisions for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee pointed out that such requirements could be included in the first performance report.

16. On 4 May 1978, the Economic and Social Council approved resolution E/1978/4, in which it noted the shortage of funds for the financing of technical advisers, and considered it essential that sufficient funds be made available to the Conference budget to enable the secretariat to respond to requests from developing countries for assistance in the elaboration of national papers.

17. At that time, the Council had before it a statement of programme budget implications in document E/1978/C.1/L.3 which projected an additional requirement of \$640,000, based on 97 work-months over and above the 83 previously authorized. The Secretary-General's position in the light of the discussion in the Fifth Committee at the thirty-second session of the General Assembly was stated in paragraph 7 of that document as follows:

"The adoption of the draft resolution by the Economic and Social Council would be interpreted by the Secretary-General as a statement of legislative intent that he should proceed with the expenditure indicated above. Financing for this expenditure would be met in the first instance by transfers from other elements of the Conference budget. The Secretary-General would, however, reserve the right, should he be unable to cover the totality of the costs from within the Conference budget, to approach the General Assembly for revised appropriations in accordance with established procedures."

18. In accordance with that interpretation, the Secretary-General has proceeded to make available to developing countries the technical advisory services requested. The 83 work-months approved for 1978 at the thirty-second session of

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the General Assembly have now been fully utilized, and, in addition, under the authority contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/4, as interpreted by the Secretary-General, there has been a further commitment of 88 work-months of technical advisory services in 1978 as of the end of October. The Conference secretariat, furthermore, anticipates late requests for assistance which would require nine additional work-months to service, bringing total requirements to 180 work-months.

19. Therefore, using the same cost estimates as were provided to the Economic and Social Council in document E/1978/C.1/L.3, the Secretary-General requests provision of \$640,000 for the additional 97 work-months required. Of those 97, 91 work-months costing approximately \$600,000 would be needed in 1978, and 6 work-months costing approximately \$40,000 in 1979.

#### Regional activities

20. In connexion with operative paragraph 7 regarding continuation of national, regional and interregional preparations for the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference believes that reinforcement of staffing structures of the science and technology units of the regional commissions should be continued to the end of September 1979. Further co-ordination in 1979 of the national efforts for the Conference would provide an essential input to the preparatory phase of the Conference. In addition, a period of approximately one month would remain after the Conference to permit a concentrated effort in the implementation of decisions relating to the regional commissions. Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposes that the posts of regional adviser, regional co-ordinator and local level staff be continued from 1 January 1979 to 30 September 1979 for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Western Asia. In the case of the Economic Commission for Africa, because of the wide geographical area to be covered and the number of countries concerned, there is need for two regional advisers to remain, one for French-speaking countries, and another for English-speaking countries. In addition, travel funding at the same level as for 1978 is proposed. For these activities, the Secretary-General estimates an additional requirement of \$432,700.

Table 4

## STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR 1979

Category	Functions	Number of staff					Work-months
		ESCAP	ECLA	ECA	ECWA	Total	
L.6	Regional advisers	1	1	2	1	5	45
P.4	Strengthening of science and technology units of regional commissions to allow effective participation of Conference preparations	1	1	1	1	4	36
Local level	Secretarial services	1	1	1	1	4	36

Temporary assistance

	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Common staff costs</u>	<u>Total costs</u>
	\$	\$	\$
ESCAP	51 750	21 200	72 950
ECLA	59 325	23 725	83 050
ECA	95 100	38 050	133 150
ECWA	<u>67 575</u>	<u>20 275</u>	<u>87 850</u>
	<u>273 750</u>	<u>103 250</u>	<u>377 000</u>

Travel and subsistence of Professional staff and regional advisers

ECE	7 700
ESCAP	16 300
ECLA	7 700
ECA	16 300
ECWA	<u>7 700</u>
	<u>55 700</u>
Grand total	<u>432 700</u>

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Interregional activities

21. The Secretary-General expects that interregional consultations will be necessary at the governmental expert level on the more important points of the programme of action. Such consultations would take place between the third and fourth Preparatory Committee meetings. Four meetings would be held in New York to deal specifically with items raised at the third session of the Preparatory Committee meeting. It is expected that each meeting would convene for a period of five days and that 12 governmental experts would participate. The estimated costs of travel and subsistence for participants for the four meetings would be \$120,000.

22. Under the restrictions imposed by resolution 32/209, as mentioned in paragraph 3 of this statement, however, the Secretary-General would be precluded from requesting such funds for this purpose and does not expect savings to arise in the existing appropriation for consultants and experts against which the projected costs might be absorbed. Therefore, as noted in paragraph 4 of this statement, the Secretary-General of the Conference could not be provided with the resources to carry out the activities referred to above without further action by the General Assembly.

23. Conference servicing full costs would be based on the following assumptions:

- (a) That the meetings would last five days;
- (b) That they would be held at United Nations Headquarters;
- (c) That the languages of the meetings would be English, French and Spanish;
- (d) That no simultaneous meetings would be held.

Table 5

	<u>1979</u>		
	\$	\$	\$
Pre-session services			
Documentation (20 pages)			
Translation/revision	2,200		
Typing	600		2,800
In-session services			
Documentation (10 pages)			
Translation/revision	2,200		
Typing	600	2,800	
Interpretation		11,600	
Conference staff		400	
General services		5,800	20,600
Post-session services			
Documentation (10 pages)			
Translation/revision	1,400		
Typing	400	1,800	
Reproduction and distribution		3,800	5,600
Travel of language staff			15,400
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Grand total			44,400
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24. Experience with other major conferences has shown that a number of organizational tasks and preliminary substantive work should be carried out before the main substantive work of the conference commences. In order to avoid having to use valuable conference time to dispose of these tasks, the Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly approve two pre-Conference sessions, which would take place during the period immediately preceding the Conference.

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25. Each of the pre-Conference sessions would involve only a small part of the total number of participants in the main Conference. Only certain staff of the Conference secretariat and of the various servicing departments would have to be at the Conference site early.

26. To date, the Secretary-General has not included in any of his financial implications statements estimates of the cost of pre-Conference activities as proposed here. However, since the two-day pre-Conference session dedicated to organizational matters would require only interpretation, and no other conference services, costs would be limited to \$7,400 for salaries of 20 interpreters to provide services in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish for a period of two days.

27. Provisions for the inclusion of the planned pre-Conference session on preliminary substantive matters are estimated on the basis of the following assumptions of conference services requirements at \$75,000:

(a) That the meeting would last five days;

(b) That it would be held at Headquarters, unless there is an invitation for it to be held elsewhere, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 31/140;

(c) That the languages of the meeting would be Arabic, English, French and Spanish;

(d) That no simultaneous meetings would be held;

(e) That no pre-session documentation would be required.

28. The following conference servicing costs would be generated:

Table 6

	1979		
	\$	\$	\$
In-session services			
Documentation (45 pages)			
Translation/revision	8,000		
Typing	2,100	10,100	
Interpretation		16,700	
Conference staff		300	
General services		5,800	32,900
Post-session services			
Documentation (45 pages)			
Translation/revision	8,000		
Typing	2,100	10,100	

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Table 6 (continued)

	<u>1979</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Reproduction and distribution		12,400
Travel of language staff	2,300	29,700
Grand total		<u>75,000</u>

29. The conference requirements presented in this statement were calculated on a full cost basis, which assumes no capacity for absorption on the part of the Department of Conference Services. These estimates will be reviewed in the context of a consolidated statement on total conference servicing requirements being submitted to the General Assembly at the end of the thirty-third session.

30. Should the General Assembly approve the proposals arising from draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39/Rev.2, a total estimated cost of from \$481,800 to \$466,300 would arise for the full cost of conference servicing. Non-conference servicing costs would amount to \$1,192,700, of which \$600,000 would pertain to 1978. Of the former amount, \$228,700 refers to consultant and expert costs which the Secretary-General is precluded from requesting in the biennium 1978-1979 under the terms of resolution 32/209.

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