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Agenda items 100, 67 and 71

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2626 (XXV), 3202 (S-VI), 3281 (XXIX) AND 3362 (S-VII), ENTITLED RESPECTIVELY "INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE", "PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER", "CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES" AND "DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION"

Acceleration of the transfer of real resources to developing countries

Administrative and financial implications of the revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/32/L.46/Rev.2

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

1. The Second Committee, at its 60th meeting held on 13 December 1977, adopted the revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/32/L.46/Rev.2. It had before it a statement of financial implications (A/C.2/32/L.86).
2. In operative paragraph 1 of the revised draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare "with the assistance of a group of high-level experts appointed by him on the recommendation of Governments and with due regard to equitable geographical distribution, a report on the following, including conclusions and recommendations, taking into account studies already undertaken within the United Nations system, on:
  - "(a) An estimate of the financial requirements over the next 10 to 15 years for the exploration and location of natural resources in developing countries which indicate to the Secretary-General their interest;
  - "(b) The availability of multilateral mechanisms for the provision of adequate finance for the exploration of natural resources with special reference

to the availability of soft loans with an element of subsidy for developing countries, bearing in mind, inter alia, the special needs of the land-locked, island developing countries and the most seriously affected amongst them;

"(c) The availability of mechanisms for the transfer of technology to developing countries for exploration and exploitation of natural resources."

3. The term "natural resources" is interpreted here as referring to minerals and energy resources, and the financial implications given below are based on that assumption. As far as water resources are concerned, similar activities are being undertaken within the context of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Water Conference to be considered at a special session of the Committee on Natural Resources in 1978.

4. The Secretary-General proposes to implement the mandate contained in the revised draft resolution in two phases. The first phase would consist in:

(a) Ascertaining the interest of developing countries to be included in the estimate of financial requirements as stipulated in subparagraph (a) of the draft resolution and

(b) Preparing a background document on the subject-matter.

For this undertaking, it is planned to use part of the staff and consultants' resources allocated to programme elements 2.1 and 2.4 of the programme "Natural resources, energy and transport" in section 5 A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979.

5. In the second phase, a panel of high-level experts composed of some 15 members would then be convened in order to evaluate the background document mentioned in subparagraph 3 (b) above as well as to implement the provisions of subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c) of the revised draft resolution. It is envisaged that the panel would meet twice at Headquarters: the first time, in the second half of April, for five working days, in order to discuss the scope of the report. The second meeting would be convened in July for two weeks in order to integrate the material and prepare the final report to be presented to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. During the period between the first and the second meeting, consultants would be assigned to prepare papers containing concrete ideas and proposals for establishing:

(a) The availability of multilateral mechanisms for the provision of adequate finances for the exploration of natural resources; and

(b) Mechanisms for the transfer of technology to developing countries for the exploration of natural resources. This undertaking would involve additional costs in the amount of \$22,500.

6. In order to secure an equitable geographical distribution, it is felt that the working languages of the expert group should be English, French and Spanish, as a minimum. This requirement would apply to the documentation as well as to simultaneous interpretation for both meetings.

7. In section 5 A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979, under programme element 2.4 of the programme "Natural resources, energy and transport", provision has been made for \$21,000 for an ad hoc expert group on mineral exploration financing. It is proposed that this provision be applied to the convening of the high-level expert group of wider geographical representation and expertise envisaged in the revised draft resolution. The actual costs of the high-level group will therefore be reduced by that amount.

8. On the basis of the above assumptions, the estimated financial implications of the revised draft resolution would be as follows:

	First meeting (one week)	Second meeting (two weeks)	Total
(a) <u>Experts and consultants</u>			
Travel and subsistence (15 experts)	\$25,200	\$28,100	\$53,300
Consultants			<u>\$22,500</u>
Total at 1977 rates			75,800
Total, after inflation			79,600
Less provision in 1978-1979 programme budget, as indicated in paragraph 6 above			<u>21,000</u>
			\$58,600

(b) Conference servicing costs

First meeting (17-21 April 1978)

	Number of staff	Number of days	Daily rate	Subtotal	Total
<u>Interpretation (E, F, S)</u>					
Salaries <u>a/</u>	9	7	\$161	\$10,100	
Travel	9			9,600	\$19,700
<u>Pre-session documentation (50 pages)</u>					
Translation <u>a/</u>	2	14	123	3,400	
Revision <u>a/</u>	2	7	131	1,800	
Typing <u>a/</u>	2	14	47	1,300	
English typist <u>b/</u>	1	5	30	200	
Travel	6		1,062	6,400	13,100

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(b) Conference servicing costs (continued)

	<u>Number of staff</u>	<u>Number of days</u>	<u>Daily rate</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>In-session documentation</u>		none			
<u>Post-session documentation</u> (25 pages)					
Translation <u>a/</u>	2	7	\$123	\$1,700	
Revision <u>a/</u>	2	3	131	800	
Typing <u>a/</u>	2	7	47	700	
English typist <u>b/</u>	1	3	30	100	\$3,300
Reproduction and distribution					3,900
Other conference staff <u>b/</u>	2	5	30		<u>300</u>
Total					40,300
Total, after inflation					<u>\$42,300</u>
<u>Second meeting (10-21 July 1978)</u>					
<u>Interpretation (E, F, S)</u>					
Salaries <u>a/</u>	9	7	\$161	\$10,100	
Travel	9			9,600	19,700
<u>Pre-session documentation</u> (100 pages)					
Translation <u>a/</u>	2	28	123	6,900	
Revision <u>a/</u>	2	14	131	3,700	
Typing <u>a/</u>	2	28	47	2,600	
English typist <u>b/</u>	1	12	30	400	13,600
<u>In-session</u> (50 pages)					
Translation <u>a/</u>	2	14	123	3,400	
Revision <u>a/</u>	2	14	131	3,700	
Typing <u>a/</u>	2	14	47	1,300	
English typist <u>b/</u>	1	5	30	200	
Travel	6			6,400	15,000

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(b) Conference servicing costs (continued)

	<u>Number of staff</u>	<u>Number of days</u>	<u>Daily rate</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Post-session documentation</u> (100 pages)					
Translation <u>a/</u>	2	28	\$123	\$6,900	
Revision <u>a/</u>	2	14	131	3,700	
Typing <u>a/</u>	2	28	47	2,600	
English typist <u>b/</u>	1	12	30	400	\$13,600
Reproduction and distribution					11,600
Other conference staff <u>b/</u>	2	10	30		<u>300</u>
Total					73,800
Total, after inflation					77,500
Total, two meetings					<u>119,800</u>
Total (a) and (b)					<u><u>\$178,400</u></u>

a/ Staff assumed to be recruited non-locally.

b/ Staff assumed to be recruited locally.

9. Total requirements of the implementation of the revised draft resolution would therefore amount to \$178,400, of which \$58,600 would be for consultants and the attendance of experts at the meetings and \$119,800 for conference servicing costs. The latter have been estimated on a "full costing basis", in the sense that all incremental costs have been estimated as "non-absorbable". To the extent that any additional appropriations might be required for conference servicing costs, this will be reflected in the consolidated report now being prepared to reflect any additional requirements under section 23.

10. As for the amount of \$58,600 which would be required for consultants and experts at the meetings in the programme "Natural resources, energy and transport" in section 5 A of the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979, the Secretary-General will attempt to absorb the cost within the total resources available in that section, reflecting the additional costs if incurred and to the degree they are measurable as a factor in the first performance report for the biennium 1978-1979.

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