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Agenda items 109 and 34

### PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985

#### LAW OF THE SEA

#### Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/39/L.35

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

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution contained in document A/39/L.35, the General Assembly would:

(a) Further express its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General 1/ in response to resolution 38/59 A and request the Secretary-General to continue the activities outlined therein, special emphasis being placed on the work of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, including the implementation of resolution II;

(b) Approve the programme of meetings of the Preparatory Commission for 1985.

2. In paragraph 130 of the report of the Secretary-General referred to above, it is indicated that "the Preparatory Commission has scheduled two meetings for 1985. A regular session will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 11 March to 4 April 1985 and a four-week summer meeting will be held either in Geneva, Kingston or New York. The Group of 77 will meet prior to the third session from 6 to 8 March 1985; and will also meet for three days before the summer meeting." When adopting resolution 38/59 A, at its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly approved the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General which made provision for the 1985 regular session of the Preparatory Commission. Similar provision was not made for the summer meeting, however, and it is required in order to implement the relevant operative paragraphs.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the operative paragraphs fall under chapter 25, Programme 1, "Law of the sea affairs," subprogramme 4, "Servicing of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea" in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. 2/ Furthermore, provision has been made in section 2A. C of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 as outlined in programme element 4.1 "Servicing of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea". 3/ The output for this element is described as "Preparation, inter alia, of background materials and working papers, reports and studies, preliminary drafts of rules, regulations and procedures for the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea." Accordingly, should the above draft resolution be approved by the General Assembly, no modification of the approved programme of work for the biennium would be required.

4. Should the General Assembly decide to adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/39/L.35, the Preparatory Commission would take a decision at its regular session on whether the summer meeting should take place in Geneva, Kingston or New York. The dates for the summer meeting would be selected on the basis of that decision. 4/

5. It is assumed that the summer meeting would be of four weeks' duration with four meetings daily. Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly. It is estimated that there would be approximately 400 pages (5 documents) of pre-session, 400 pages (5 documents) of in-session and 100 pages (2 documents) of post-session documentation. The pre- and post-session documentation would be prepared in New York. It is expected that English would be the language of submission for much of the documentation, all of which would be translated into six languages. The related full cost at each possible location is indicated in table 1 below.

Table 1

	<u>Geneva</u> \$	<u>Kingston</u> \$	<u>New York</u> \$
<u>Pre-session documentation</u> (New York; 400 pages of 5 documents in A, C, E, F, R, S)	430 100	430 100	430 100
<u>Meeting servicing</u> (4 meetings daily; interpretation in A, C, E, F, R, S)	282 600	577 700	577 700
<u>In-session documentation</u> (400 pages of 5 documents in A, C, E, F, R, S)	266 000	423 600	423 600
<u>Post-session documentation</u> (New York; 100 pages of 2 documents in A, C, E, F, R, S)	<u>107 300</u>	<u>107 300</u>	<u>107 300</u>
Subtotal	1 086 000	1 538 700	1 538 700
Requirements of the Office of General Services	<u>10 400</u>	<u>41 600</u>	<u>41 600</u>
Total	<u><u>1 096 400</u></u>	<u><u>1 580 300</u></u>	<u><u>1 580 300</u></u>

6. With regard to non-conference servicing costs, depending on the venue, the level of requirements in respect of travel and subsistence for staff of the Department of Conference Services, substantive services, other services, namely the Department of Public Information and the Office of General Services, as well as requirements for operating supplies and services, would vary. These requirements are broken down for each location in table 2 below.

Table 2

	<u>Geneva</u>	<u>Kingston</u>	<u>New York</u>
	\$	\$	\$
General temporary assistance (local staff)	-	72 000	-
Travel of representatives of national bodies for meetings	8 800	18 700	13 700
Travel of substantive staff to attend official meetings	134 400	186 800	31 000
Travel and per diem differential of DCS staff to meetings	-	28 800	-
General operative expenses (rental of office equipment and vehicles, local transportation, etc.)	-	55 400	-
Miscellaneous services (freight and related costs, etc.)	<u>2 000</u>	<u>5 000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>145 200</u>	<u>366 700</u>	<u>44 700</u>

7. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, additional expenditures in the amount of \$366,000 might thus be incurred. As there is no potential for partially or fully absorbing the additional costs, an appropriation in that amount is requested under section 2A. C, Law of the Sea, for 1985. Should the decision of the Preparatory Commission regarding the venue of the summer meeting entail a lower level of expenditure, the unexpended amount would be reported in the context of the final performance report for the 1984-1985 biennium.

8. With regard to conference servicing costs, the estimates are provided on the basis of full costing, i.e. on the assumption that no part of the conference servicing requirements would be made available from within existing resources. Towards the close of the present session of the General Assembly, a consolidated statement of conference servicing requirements will be submitted through which net additional resources will be requested in the light of the calendar of conferences for the year 1985 as finally approved by the General Assembly.

Notes

1/ A/39/647.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session,  
Supplement No. 6A (A/37/6/Add.2), paras. 25.29-25.34.

3/ A/38/570/Add.1, para. 18.

4/ Should Geneva be chosen as the venue for the summer meeting, there would be a choice of dates, either 5 to 30 August or 12 August to 4 September, with the meeting of the Group of 77 being held before from 31 July to 2 August or 7 to 9 August 1985, respectively. Should Kingston be chosen as the venue, the dates could be from 12 August to 6 September, with the Group of 77 meeting being held from 7 to 9 August 1985. If New York were chosen as the venue, the dates would be from 22 July to 16 August, with the preceding meeting of the Group of 77 being held from 17 to 19 July 1985.

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