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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

ADOPTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.3/44/L.45

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

A. Requests contained in the draft decision

1. Under the provisions of draft decision A/C.3/44/L.45, the Third Committee would decide with respect to article 43 of the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child that:

(a) Paragraph 10 bis of the draft Convention as contained in the annex to A/44/616 would be renumbered paragraph 11 and would read as follows: "The Secretary-General of the United Nations should provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention";

(b) Paragraph 11 would be renumbered paragraph 12, and the brackets on the following text removed: "With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from the United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide".

2. In addition, the two texts in brackets following new paragraph 12 would be deleted.

3. It is the Secretary-General's understanding that these paragraphs, as renumbered and modified, would indicate that the costs associated with the

implementation of the Convention should be met from the regular budget of the Organization. Consequently, the present statement outlines what the implications of the Convention as a whole would be for the regular budget.

B. Relationship of the requests to the proposed programme of work

4. The activities that would be called for under the Convention fall under chapter 6, section II, "Programme: Centre for Human Rights", subprogramme 1, "Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures", the objectives and strategy for which are outlined in paragraphs 6.20 to 6.23 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 1/ as extended through 1991.

5. The activities are particularly relevant to section 23 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, 2/ programme element 1.1 "Implementing regular supervisory procedures", of subprogramme 1, which is proposed for highest priority in the human rights programme, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

6. Should the texts contained in the draft decision be adopted, various activities that would be required upon the entry into force of the Convention in accordance with article 49, as described below, would need to be financed from the regular budget of the Organization.

7. The first meeting of the States parties to the Convention would be convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters for one day in 1991 to elect members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Subsequent meetings of the States parties would be convened by the Secretary-General at biennial intervals.

8. In accordance with article 43, the Committee on the Rights of the Child would consist of 10 experts and would meet annually at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. The Secretary-General, subject to the entry into force of the Convention and the election of Committee members, intends to convene the first regular session of the Committee for a period of three weeks during the first half of 1991 at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the headquarters of the Committee's substantive secretariat. Travel and subsistence costs would be required to be paid for the 10 members.

9. At its first regular session, the Committee would be expected, inter alia, to consider and adopt its rules of procedure in accordance with article 43 of the Convention, draft approved guidelines for the submission of reports and take decisions on matters relating to the organization of its future work and the preparation of its annual report to the General Assembly. It should be noted, however, that even though article 43 states that the Committee may determine its place of meeting, the Secretary-General believes that the principles embodied in General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 should be observed and that, consequently, the Committee should meet at the headquarters of its substantive

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secretariat, i.e., Geneva, and this should be reflected in the calendar of conferences for future biennia.

10. Under article 44 of the Convention, States parties would undertake to submit reports through the Secretary-General of the United Nations within two years of the entry into force of the Convention and thereafter every five years. The Committee would also submit a report on its activities every two years to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

11. The adequate provision to the States parties and to the Committee of the necessary reports and of substantive services for the meetings of States parties and sessions of the Committee cannot be ensured without additional staffing resources being made available to the Centre for Human Rights. In view of the fact that the Convention is not expected to enter into force until 1991, and in the absence of a programme of work which the Committee for the Rights of the Child would have to establish, the extent of support and assistance which the Centre for Human Rights would be expected to provide cannot be accurately ascertained. Under the circumstances, it is proposed, initially, to provide for an amount of \$119,000 under temporary assistance in 1991 equivalent to 12 work-months at the Professional level (6 at P-4 and 6 at P-2) and 6 work-months at the General Service level. The long-term work-load requirements will be established at a later stage, in the light of actual experience and will be presented to the General Assembly in the context of a subsequent proposed programme budget. By way of comparison, it should be noted that, in order to implement the supervisory procedures in respect of the Convention against Torture, three posts (1 P-4, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service) have been provided to the Centre for Human Rights, on a full-time basis.

12. Under article 43, new paragraph 12, with the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention would receive emoluments from the United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide. In determining the level of such emoluments and the related terms and conditions, the Assembly may wish to be guided by General Assembly resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980. Under the terms of that resolution, an amount of \$5,000 per year is provided to the Chairman and \$3,000 per year to each of the members of the Human Rights Committee, which would appear to have been entrusted with functions similar to those that this Convention would entrust to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Pending a decision by the Assembly, these amounts have been provisionally included in the current statement of programme budget implications.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work
for 1990-1991

13. In connection with the new activities proposed above to be undertaken with the adoption of the Convention, three new outputs have already been included in section 23 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, in anticipation of the adoption of the Convention, as follows:

Subprogramme 1 - Implementation of international standards, instruments and procedures

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Programme element 1.1 - Implementing regular supervisory procedures

Output:

- (xxix) Substantive servicing of one meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (first quarter, 1991);
- (xxx) Substantive servicing of one session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (second quarter, 1991);
- (xxxi) Preparation of one report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to be submitted to the General Assembly (third quarter, 1991).

E. Additional requirements at full cost

14. The full cost of requirements to undertake the activities contained in section C above would be as follows:

	1991 \$
(a) Conference-servicing costs	
(i) Meeting of States parties	97 600
(ii) Committee on the Rights of the Child	886 900
Total (a)	984 500
(b) Other costs	
(i) Travel and subsistence of 10 members for one session of 3 weeks	55 000
(ii) Emoluments for 10 members	37 000
(iii) General temporary assistance	119 000
Total (b)	206 000

F. Potential for absorption

Conference-servicing costs

15. The meetings of States parties and the Committee on the Rights of the Child have not yet been included in the draft calendar of conferences. However, the estimates of conference-servicing costs indicated in paragraph 14 above are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 29 of the proposed programme budget, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the proposed calendar of conferences for 1990-1991. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.5 of the proposed programme budget, the 1990-1991 level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only for meetings known at the time of the budget preparations but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of draft decision A/C.3/44/L.45.

Other costs

16. As regards the costs involved for the travel and subsistence of the 10 members of the Committee, the emoluments for the members and general temporary assistance for the Centre for Human Rights, it may be recalled that section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (table 23.6 (vii)) contains provisions in the amount of \$1,685,300 for activities in the field of human rights, which may be mandated by the Economic and Social Council during its regular sessions. 2/

17. It is the view of the Secretary-General that the estimated amount of \$206,000 required for the implementation of supervisory procedures for the Convention on the Rights of the Child should be provided for from the total amount included in the programme budget under the provision for potential mandates from the Economic and Social Council, thus making it unnecessary to request an additional appropriation or to have recourse to the contingency fund.

18. In conclusion, therefore, should it be decided that the costs associated with the implementation of the Convention be met from the regular budget of the Organization, no additional appropriations would be required under either section 23, for the reasons explained in paragraphs 16 and 17 above, or section 29 for the reasons explained in paragraph 15 above.

19. An additional appropriation of \$22,700 would, however, be required under section 31 (Staff assessment) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, which would be offset by an increase of the same magnitude in the estimates of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

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Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1).

2/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

Annex I

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF THE MEETINGS OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

	<u>1991</u>
	\$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u>	
(50 pages, 5 documents: ACEFRS)	51 500
II. <u>Meeting servicing</u>	
(Interpretation, 2 meetings: ACEFRS)	8 400
III. <u>Post-session documentation</u>	
(10 pages, 1 document: ACEFRS)	10 300
IV. <u>Summary records</u>	
(2 meetings: ACEFRS)	26 300
V. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	<u>1 100</u>
Total	<u>97 600</u>

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Annex II

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

	<u>1991</u> \$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u>	
(300 pages, 30 documents: ACEFRS)	257 600
II. <u>Meeting servicing</u>	
(Interpretation, 30 meetings: ACEFRS)	152 000
III. <u>In-session documentation</u>	
(100 pages, 10 documents: ACEFRS)	53 900
IV. <u>Post-session documentation</u>	
(100 pages, 1 document: ACEFRS)	80 800
V. <u>Summary records</u>	
(30 meetings: ACEFRS)	3 6 100
VI. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	16 500
Total	<u>886 900</u>
