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### EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained  
in document A/C.2/44/L.47

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 terms of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.47, the General Assembly would (a) decide, in the context of seeking a durable solution to the debt crisis, to establish, under the aegis of the Secretary-General, an advisory commission on debt and development with a three-year term, composed of eminent persons (operative paragraph 12); (b) request the Secretary-General to appoint the members of the Commission, and organize its support staff from within the United Nations and, through secondment or other appropriate means, from relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies of the United Nations system (operative paragraph 12); (c) request the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive and analytical report on the impact of the external debt crisis of developing countries on the availability of resources for their growth and socio-economic development (operative paragraph 13); (d) request the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (operative paragraph 14); and (e) include in his report a study on the feasibility of establishing an institution that would be devoted to the resolution of the debt crisis of the developing countries (operative paragraph 15).

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

2. The activities proposed would fall within the purview of activities undertaken by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and would include, *inter alia*, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to development issues and assisting in the identification of and focus on emerging problems and long-term trends requiring the attention of and/or action by the international community (A/44/6/Rev.1, sect. 5A, para. 5A.5). They would also relate to the following chapters of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1991: chapter 10 (Development issues and policies), programme 1 (Global development issues and policies (DIESA)), subprogramme 1A (Effects of the foreign debt on development); and chapter 16 (International trade and development finance), programme 1 (Money, finance and development (UNCTAD)), subprogramme 1 (External financing, debt problems of developing countries and international monetary issues).

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would appoint 12 eminent persons as members of the advisory commission on debt and development. The commission would have two sessions of one week each in New York, annually, starting in 1990. Its support staff would be organized from within the United Nations and through secondment or other appropriate means from relevant inter-governmental organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

4. The members of the Commission would be entitled to payment of travel costs and daily subsistence allowance.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work

5. In connection with the new activities requested in the draft resolution, two new outputs would be added to the programme of work for 1990-1991 of the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation (see A/44/6/Rev.1, sect. 5A) under subsection A (Global economic and social issues) as follows:

A. Global economic and social issues

(g) (i) Report to the General Assembly on the impact of the external debt crisis of developing countries on the availability of resources for their growth and socio-economic development;

(ii) Report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, including a study on the feasibility of establishing an institution devoted to the resolution of the debt crisis of developing countries.

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### E. Additional requirements at full cost

6. The full cost of requirements to carry out the activities requested in the draft resolution is estimated as follows:

	1990	1991	1992
	\$	\$	\$
(a) <u>Conference servicing cost</u> (see the annex below for a breakdown of the costs)			
Two sessions, each of one week's duration	294 800	306 600	318 400
(b) <u>Other costs</u>			
Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 12 members of the advisory commission on debt and development	<u>97 700</u>	<u>102 000</u>	<u>106 700</u>
Total:	<u>392 500</u>	<u>408 600</u>	<u>425 100</u>

### F. Potential for absorption

#### Conference-servicing costs

7. The above estimates of conference-servicing costs 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 (Conference and library service) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/44/6/Rev.1) 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 only be determined in the light of the proposed calendar of conferences for the biennium 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 meetings which are programmed, but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation 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 resolution A/C.2/44/L.47.

### Other costs

8. It is not anticipated that the additional requirements for travel and subsistence of the 12 members of the commission set out in paragraph 6 above could be absorbed.

### G. Indication of additional requirements

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, it is estimated that additional requirements of \$199,700 would arise under section 5A (Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

### H. Contingency fund

10. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for the establishment of the advisory commission on debt and development called for in the draft resolution, for which it is estimated that an amount of \$199,700 would be required.

11. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and, in effect, starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available within the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of the current session.

12. The Secretary-General is not in a position to propose the termination, deferral, curtailment or modification of any activity in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 in order to finance the costs relating to the establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development, in the event that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution.

13. Therefore, the General Assembly will be informed that no activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the proposed programme budget for 1990-1991 in order to finance these activities in the event that the Assembly adopts the draft resolution. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the activities may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the Assembly in resolution 42/211.

## Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE SERVICES FOR AN ADVISORY  
COMMISSION ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

	1990	1991	1992
	\$	\$	\$
I. <u>Pre-session documentation</u> 100 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S	99 000	103 000	107 000
II. <u>Meetings servicing</u> Interpretation, 20 meetings: A,C,E,F,R,S	80 200	83 600	87 000
III. <u>In-session documentation</u> 60 pages, 6 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S	58 000	60 200	62 400
IV. <u>Post-session documentation</u> 60 pages, 2 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S	57 600	59 800	62 000
Total:	<u>294 800</u>	<u>306 600</u>	<u>318 400</u>