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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/44/L.48

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

A. Request contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48 the General Assembly would request the Committee for Development Planning, taking into account the fact that the question of the eradication of poverty has been included as one of the priority aspects of development in the recommended outline for the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, to submit to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, at its session from 4 to 15 June 1990, concrete proposals on international and intergovernmental action for the eradication of poverty in developing countries.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the regional commissions, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, a comprehensive report containing, inter alia:

(a) An analysis of the diversified impact of the adverse international economic development on the intensification of poverty in developing countries;

(b) A summary of the experience of developing countries concerning the eradication of poverty;

(c) Specific recommendations for effective international policy measures for the urgent and permanent eradication of poverty, in accordance with the present resolution.

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

3. Should draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48 be adopted, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the request contained in operative paragraph 7 would be undertaken on the assumption that no additional working groups of the Committee for Development Planning would be convened before the June 1990 session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. Any requests from the General Assembly would be brought to the attention of the Committee for Development Planning, whose new membership is expected to be elected at the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council in February 1990. The Committee for Development Planning, which will hold its next session from 30 April to 4 May 1990, would be requested to add the eradication of poverty to its agenda and submit its conclusions in the form of a preliminary conference room paper to the Ad Hoc Committee at its session in June.

4. The request contained in operative paragraph 8 for a comprehensive report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, analysing the diversified impact of an adverse international economic environment on the intensification of poverty in developing countries, summarizing the experience of developing countries concerning the eradication of poverty and putting forth recommendations for effective policy measures in this regard, would fall under chapter 10, programme 1 (Global development issues and policies) of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, as revised. In particular, it would fall under subprogrammes 2 (Policies for broad-based development) and 4 (Developing countries: problems and prospects). It should be noted that in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, in section 6, programme 1, subprogramme 2, a report on international co-operation policies and on development strategies to eradicate extreme poverty is planned as an output for submission to the General Assembly in the third quarter of 1991. The subject-matter of this report and the comprehensive report requested in the draft resolution would therefore be very similar, although the earlier report would be unable to make use of inputs provided by the Committee for Development Planning, as mentioned above.

5. As requested, the report would be prepared with the assistance of the regional commissions in accordance with their work programmes. That part of the request in operative paragraph 8 addressed to the regional commissions would be incorporated in their programmes of work for the forthcoming biennium.

C. Activities by which the request will be implemented

6. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48, the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the regional commissions, would prepare a comprehensive report on the impact of the adverse economic environment on the intensification of poverty in developing countries and the experience of those countries in its eradication for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session by the third quarter of 1990.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

7. Additional resources would be required to undertake the activity requested in draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48, since the resources for the programme for the first year of the biennium 1990-1991 are fully committed. The requirements to undertake the activities requested in operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48 are estimated on a full-cost basis for consultants, broken down as follows:

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(a) Analysis of diversified impact of the adverse international economic environment on the intensification of poverty in developing countries	12 800
(b) Integration and synthesis of experience in the eradication of poverty	25 500
(c) Summary of the experience of developing countries concerning the eradication of poverty:	
(i) Research and analysis of a sample of Asian countries	17 000
(ii) Research and analysis of a sample of African countries	17 000
(iii) Research and analysis of a sample of Latin American countries	<u>17 000</u>
Total	<u>89 300</u>

E. Contingency fund

8. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for the preparation of a comprehensive report on the eradication of poverty for submission to the General Assembly in 1990. A report to the General Assembly in 1991 is, however, envisaged in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. It is estimated that an amount of \$89,300 will be required to

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prepare this report in the time period proposed in draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48, since resources for 1990 are fully committed.

9. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and, in effect, beginning 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 from 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.

10. The Secretary-General is not in a position to propose the termination, deferral, curtailment or modification of any activity under the relevant subprogrammes of the proposed programme budget for the first year of the biennium 1990-1991 in order to finance the costs relating to the preparation of the comprehensive report on the eradication of poverty in developing countries for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session as requested.

11. The Committee is therefore requested to note the fact that no activity has been identified for deferral, curtailment or modification under the proposed programme budget for 1990-1991 in order to finance the activities required to respond to the requests contained in operative paragraph 8 in the event that the General Assembly adopts draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48. Should it not prove possible to finance from the contingency fund the costs related to the activities as identified in paragraph 7 above, the postponement of the report may be required, as provided for in the procedure for the use of the contingency fund, explained in paragraph 9 above. In that event, the Secretary-General would present a progress report on the implementation of the draft resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, with the comprehensive report, as requested, to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session. In this way, the cost of responding to draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.48 could be fully absorbed in the provisions for the year 1991 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.
