



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/7823/Rev.1  
5 December 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth session  
Agenda item 22

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In resolution 2406 (XXIII) of 16 December 1968, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee, in close co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in consultation with appropriate specialized agencies:

"(a) To undertake preparations for the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy to be held at Geneva for eight or nine working days on convenient dates in 1971;

(b) To provide for a conference which would fully achieve the objectives stated in General Assembly resolution 2309 (XXII) but would be more limited in size and cost than the one held in 1964 and at minimum expense to the United Nations."

The Secretary-General was also requested to submit a report to the Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on preparations undertaken for the Conference, together with cost estimates, so that the necessary funds for the Conference might be considered and an appropriate sum included in the United Nations budget for 1970.

2. The United Nations Scientific Advisory Committee held its 72nd and 73rd meetings on 29 August 1969 and discussed the agenda of the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. In view of the possible implications as regards the general situation of atomic energy development, which may evolve as a result of the discussions at present under way concerning the

implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Advisory Committee felt that further examination of possible items would be necessary before a final agenda could be decided upon. The Advisory Committee recognized the necessity of proposing financial guidelines for the conference but found it impossible to make precise estimates until the question of the agenda had been settled. The Committee hoped that by the time it reconvenes in April 1970, it would be able to come to an agreement regarding the proposed agenda and a recommendation on cost estimates of the Conference.

3. The Advisory Committee noted the request of the General Assembly, as set out in resolution 2406 (XXIII), to "provide for a conference which would fully achieve the objectives stated in General Assembly resolution 2309 (XXII) but would be more limited in size and cost than the one held in 1964 and at minimum expense to the United Nations". In view of the circumstances stated above, the Committee was not able to establish a recommendation on the detailed cost estimates. However, the Committee noted that to maintain the expenditures at the same level in real terms as for the Third International Conference in 1964 would require, for a similar Conference in 1971, an appropriation of some 40 per cent in excess of the costs of the Third Conference. It was felt therefore that if the range of actual expenditures were to be kept at the same level as in 1964, this would in fact constitute a considerable reduction in costs.

4. Bearing in mind the views of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General is submitting the attached preliminary cost estimates for the General Assembly's consideration. These estimates were established on the assumption that the same number of agenda items would be retained as for the previous conference and that the contribution of IAEA for the Fourth Conference would be provided in the same proportion as for the Third Conference in 1964. The Secretary-General has made every effort to reduce the estimated costs by forecasting a major reduction in the documentation and printing requirements.

5. The preliminary estimates below were established on the basis of the following assumptions:

(a) The Conference would be held in August or early September 1971 at the United Nations Office at Geneva, for a period of nine working days;

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(b) The travel and subsistence expenses of the participants in the Conference would be borne by the respective Governments, organizations or institutions;

(c) In addition to the formal opening and closing plenary sessions, the Conference would comprise general and technical sessions, with the understanding that the maximum number of meetings to be held simultaneously would be limited to three;

(d) Simultaneous interpretation into English, French, Russian and Spanish would be provided during the Conference;

(e) No verbatim or summary records would be provided during the Conference. However, the proceedings of the Conference would be recorded on tape in order to provide a basis for the subsequent compilation of an estimated 400 pages of summaries of the discussions in four languages;

(f) In-session documentation would be limited to a daily journal, a conference information handbook, a list of delegates and a list of conference papers;

(g) Total contributions to the Conference would be limited to 500 papers not exceeding ten typed pages (3,000 words) each in length, including tables, charts and figures, together with a 300-word summary abstract of each paper. The papers would have to be submitted in one of the languages of the Conference, namely, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Approximately 300 of the 500 full-length papers would be selected by the Scientific secretariat of the Conference to serve for oral presentation at the general sessions and would therefore be issued in the language of submission.

(h) The conference-servicing staff would be approximately the same as for the Third Conference in 1964;

(i) The contribution of IAEA would be in the same proportion as that provided for the Third Conference in terms of supporting administrative, registry and conference-servicing staff, and scientific secretaries with supporting general service staff.

6. On the above basis, the financial implications of convening a Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy have been determined as follows:

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A. Temporary assistance

	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$
The preparation of the conference would require the establishment of a small conference secretariat and the services of scientific secretaries or experts with adequate general service supporting staff. The temporary assistance costs are thus estimated at . . . . .	60,000	100,000	

The IAEA would provide the main substantive staff required for the conference, namely the services of fifteen scientific secretaries, together with supporting general service staff for a period of up to six months, first, to assist with the selection and preliminary editing of the papers and abstracts prior to the reproduction of pre-conference documentation; and second, to be in attendance at Geneva from early August 1971 in connexion with the final arrangements for, and the servicing of, the conference during the conference itself, and after the conference for assistance in the final editing of the papers and summaries of discussions in connexion with the printing of the proceedings of the conference.

B. Conference-servicing staff

The conference-servicing staff would comprise an administrative unit and the staff required for direct conference-servicing such as interpreters, précis-writers and editors, translators, supporting general service staff, conference officers, sound recording and visual aid operators, reproduction and distribution staff,

	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$
messengers etc. as provided from Geneva and Headquarters for the Third Conference. Fees, travel and subsistence of the conference-servicing staff, excluding IAEA's contribution in that respect, are estimated at . . . . .		140,000	

C. Travel of staff

Provision will have to be made for travel and subsistence of staff members in 1970 and 1971 in connexion with the preparation of the Conference. Provision will also have to be made in 1971 for attendance at the Conference of substantive staff, scientific secretaries and supporting staff, members of the IAEA administrative unit, the Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and approximately five other senior United Nations officials. The travel and subsistence of such staff is estimated at . . . .

	10,000	60,000
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D. Public information services

On the assumption that the information services required during the pre-conference period would be provided by IAEA, the cost of the public information services to be provided by the United Nations during the Conferences is estimated at . . . . .

	25,000
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	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$
E. <u>General expenses</u> . . . . .		133,000	

This estimate provides for expenses relating to the premises, the installation of special seating facilities in the conference rooms, rental and maintenance of office machines, rental of equipment for recording of meetings, rental of visual aid equipment, internal reproduction supplies, stationery and office supplies and other miscellaneous supplies and services, paper, printing cost of the daily Journal, conference (information) handbook, lists of conference papers, list of delegations, communications, including cables, telephone information and services, postage, pouch and freight, etc.

F. Hospitality

Provision would have to be made for a reception to be attended by all participants in the Conference at an estimated cost of . . . . . 3,500

G. Documentation

The following requirements would arise in connexion with the documentation of the conference:

(i) Pre-session and in-session documentation

Translation into three languages and typing and reproduction in four languages of 500 abstracts of approximately 300 words each and the reproduction of 300 papers in the language of submission, at an estimated cost of . . . . . 40,000 87,000

	1970	1971	1972
	\$	\$	\$
(ii) <u>Post-session documentation</u>			
Translation into three languages and printing in four languages of approximately 400 pages of summaries of discussions, printing of 500 papers in the language of submission (including engraving, binding and paper), editing and copy preparation of this documentation, at an estimated cost of			168,000

H. Headquarters accommodation for conference secretariat

Rental of space*	4,700	11,350	-
Furniture and equipment	1,650	950	-
Telephone (rental of lines and equipment, installation)	250	400	-
	6,600	12,700	-

\* Computed on a global basis, i.e. on the assumption that general services (security, messengers, etc.) could be provided from the totality of resources requested by the Secretary-General.

7. Thus, the financial implications of convening the Fourth Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy may be summarized as follows:

	1970	1971	1972	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
A. Temporary assistance	60,000	100,000	-	160,000
B. Conference-servicing staff	-	140,000	-	140,000
C. Travel of staff	10,000	60,000	-	70,000
D. Public information services	-	25,000	-	25,000
E. General expenses	-	133,000	-	133,000
F. Hospitality	-	3,500	-	3,500
G. Documentation	40,000	87,000	168,000	295,000
H. Headquarters accommodation	6,600	12,700	-	19,300
	116,600	561,200	168,000	845,800

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8. In its discussions at the twenty-third session, the General Assembly agreed that, in order to accentuate the impact of the Conference, an exhibition could be organized for the public. The Assembly may wish to reconsider this possibility, in the light of the financial restrictions mentioned above, bearing in mind that such an exhibition would involve additional expenditures which would have to be borne by the participating Member States.

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