

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7398
13 December 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-third session
Agenda items 47 and 74

OUTFLOW OF TRAINED PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AT
ALL LEVELS FROM THE DEVELOPING TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
ITS CAUSES, ITS CONSEQUENCES AND PRACTICAL REMEDIES FOR
THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM IT

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1969

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.1032

Thirty-second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered a statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1203) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted to the Second Committee in document A/C.2/L.1032 concerning the outflow of trained and technical personnel at all levels from the developing to the developed countries.
2. Operative paragraphs 5 to 9 of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly

....

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake, in consultation with Governments concerned and taking into account, as appropriate, the work being done by the specialized agencies, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other interested organizations and organs of the United Nations system, selective studies of a few developing countries, which are seriously concerned with the 'brain drain' problem, aimed at clarifying it further, and in particular, to assess its consequences for their economic development and to make appropriate recommendations for practical action at the national and international level in tackling this problem;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of the above studies and in co-operation with the specialized agencies, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to formulate suggestions for action to tackle the problems arising from the outflow of trained personnel of all levels from developing to developed countries within the framework of the proposed strategy for development of the next decade;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the case studies as well as his suggestions for action to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council;

"8. Requests further the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the appropriate organizations and programmes within the United Nations system of the need to assist Member Governments of the developing countries, at their request, in the improvement of their statistical and research activities aimed at assessing the magnitude and characteristics of the outflow of their trained personnel;

"9. Invites the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, to assist the Secretary-General in strengthening co-ordination of research and operational activities of the United Nations in this field."

3. In implementing the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes to undertake case studies in five geographical areas, to be conducted along prescribed lines by local consultants. Upon completion of the case studies, the Secretary-General would invite the five consultants to meet at Headquarters for a period of one week, in order to make appropriate recommendations for practical action at the national and international level in dealing with the "brain drain" problem. The Secretary-General estimates that preparation of the five case studies would cost an average of \$4,000 each, and that the costs of the meetings at Headquarters, limited to travel and subsistence expenses of the consultants, would amount to \$5,700. Additionally, \$1,000 is provided for the travel of staff for consultations with Governments, specialized agencies and other interested organizations. The total cost, therefore, is estimated by the Secretary-General at \$26,700.

4. In examining the financial statement, the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General had interpreted operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution as calling for local consultants to undertake the case studies requested. The Committee understands that the studies would need to be prepared on the basis of statistical data available in the five countries or geographical areas to be reviewed. However, the Committee is not convinced of the need to employ consultants to prepare the studies. Operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution envisages the active co-operation and participation, as appropriate, of Member Governments, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the preparation of the selective case studies. It would therefore appear to the Advisory Committee that it should be possible for the Secretary-General, with the co-operation of the agencies, and, more particularly, with UNITAR, which has already prepared a report on this subject, and UNESCO, to arrange for the preparation of the case studies from within the existing staff and other resources available to the United Nations and those organizations.

5. The Committee also is of the view that the secretariats of the regional economic commissions and possibly the Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme located in the areas or countries to be surveyed could undertake the necessary consultations with Member States and arrange for the compilation and transmission to the Secretary-General of the data to be incorporated in the case studies.

6. In suggesting this course of action, the Advisory Committee has been mindful of the concern of the Second Committee for ensuring concerted action by the various organizations in the United Nations system to this important problem. The Committee would draw attention to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, which requests the Secretary-General to submit the case studies as well as his suggestions for action not to the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly, but to its twenty-fifth session (1970) through the Economic and Social Council.

7. Should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee is confident that the Secretary-General will be able to establish the necessary co-ordinating machinery with the appropriate organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, to ensure full implementation of the

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requirements of the resolution of the Second Committee, from within the resources already available to those organizations for 1969.

8. In the light of its observations contained in paragraphs 4 to 7 above, the Advisory Committee is unable to concur in the Secretary-General's request for an additional appropriation of \$26,700 in 1969 for implementing draft resolution A/C.2/L.1032.
