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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Revised programme and budget proposals under section 15: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; section 31: Staff assessment; and income section 1: Income from staff assessment

Fourteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised programme and budget proposals under section 15: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/C.5/34/27 and Corr.1).
2. These revised estimates arise out of decisions of the fifth session of UNCTAD which took place after the initial programme budget proposals had been prepared. It will be recalled that the initial estimates of \$45,566,900 for UNCTAD were confined to the revaluation of the 1978-1979 resource base with provision for inflation in 1980-1981. 1/ The estimate of \$50,083,800 now submitted by the Secretary-General is \$3,123,500 or 6.6 per cent higher than the revised appropriation for 1978-1979. In table 15.1 of his report, the Secretary-General estimates resource growth at \$1,693,600 at revised 1979 rates and a rate of real growth of 3.7 per cent. The Secretary-General also estimates that extrabudgetary resources available to UNCTAD during 1980-1981 will be in the order of \$23 million.
3. In paragraph 4 of his report, the Secretary-General states that he is not proposing any growth for consultants, ad hoc expert groups, travel or external printing and binding. According to the Secretary-General, the real growth figure of 3.7 per cent reflects a request for 11 new Professional posts and four General Service posts, as well as the reclassification of three posts (including one from the General Service to the Professional category). Table 15.4 of the Secretary-General's report shows that if the proposed additions and reclassifications are

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/34/6), vol. II, para. 15.1.

approved by the General Assembly, the staffing table of UNCTAD in 1980-1981 will comprise 414 regular budget posts (228 Professional and above and 186 General Service).

4. The new posts being requested are as follows:

	<u>Professional</u>	<u>General Service</u>
Executive direction and management	1 D-1, 1 P-5	
Money, finance and development	1 P-3	
Manufactures	1 P-3	
Shipping	1 P-3	
Transfer of technology	1 P-4, 1 P-3	1
Economic co-operation among developing countries	1 P-5	1
Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	1 P-5, 2 P-4	1
Conference affairs	-	1

The three reclassifications proposed are as follows:

Trade among countries having different economic and social systems	General Service to P-2/1.
Money, finance and development	P-4 to P-5
Trade facilitation	P-5 to D-1

5. The request to reclassify the post of Chief of the Trade Facilitation Programme from P-5 to D-1 is contained in paragraph 128 of the Secretary-General's report. On the basis of the evidence, the request does not appear to be related to any change in the functions and/or responsibilities of the post. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends against approval of this request with a consequent reduction in the estimates of \$14,200.

6. Bearing in mind the decisions and resolutions taken by UNCTAD at its fifth session and the expanding work programme resulting therefrom, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the other new posts and reclassifications requested by the Secretary-General and referred to in paragraph 4 above.

7. The Committee notes from table 15.5 of the Secretary-General's report that the 1980-1981 estimates of \$3,274,000 for ad hoc posts and related costs for the Integrated Programme for Commodities show a marked and unexplained increase over the 1978-1979 appropriation of \$2,733,900. In response to inquiries the Committee has been informed that this is attributable to an error in computation by which the amount required for common staff costs in 1978-1979 was underestimated. This

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explanation also accounts for the disproportionate relationship between general temporary assistance and common staff costs in the revaluation of the 1978-1979 resource base (at revised 1979 rates) in table 15.12 of the Secretary-General's report.

8. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, ^{2/} the Advisory Committee has provisionally recommended approval of an amount of \$45,566,900 for section 15. Bearing in mind its recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the Committee recommends an additional appropriation of \$4,502,700 under section 15 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

9. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General's request under section 15 would give rise to a requirement for \$172,200 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by income in the same amount under income section 1. Taking into account the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the related estimates for staff assessment would be \$166,800 under section 31 and income section 1 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

^{2/} Ibid., Supplement No. 7 (A/34/7).