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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
contained in document A/C.2/34/L.79 and Corr.1

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

1. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.79 and Corr.1 is divided into five sections of which the Secretary-General believes three parts to contain provisions in respect of which financial implications would arise. This paper therefore presents the Secretary-General's estimates of financial implications arising in respect of parts II, III and V. To the extent possible the assumptions which have had to be drawn on in providing this statement are based upon the proposals contained in document A/34/587/Add.1.

I

Requirements in respect of part II of the draft resolution

2. In paragraph 1 of part II of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.79 and Corr.1, the General Assembly would decide to establish an Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development.

3. In paragraph 6 of the same part of the draft resolution the General Assembly would also decide that the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee shall take place in the first quarter of 1980 and that provision shall be made for an additional meeting in 1980, if necessary, and would request the Intergovernmental Committee to include in its report to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly recommendations regarding the periodicity of its meetings in subsequent years.

4. In paragraph 9 of part II of the draft resolution the General Assembly would invite the Economic and Social Council to take the necessary action, in the light

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of recommendations that may be made by the Intergovernmental Committee regarding the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology.

5. In paragraph 11 of part II of the draft resolution the General Assembly would invite all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system including the regional commissions and others to participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee.

6. The Secretary-General is of the opinion that all of the above proposals would have potential financial implications in respect of conference servicing and travel costs. However, in view of the large number of imponderables remaining as to the length, periodicity, and documentation requirements of the two bodies, the Secretary-General believes that it would be appropriate to defer requesting such net additional appropriations as may be required in respect of the above proposals to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. ^{1/} At that time it is expected that the Secretary-General would have available a firm basis on which to estimate the likely net additional costs arising in respect of part II of the draft resolution.

II

Requirements in respect to part III of the draft resolution

7. In paragraph 1 of part III of the draft resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to establish a new distinct entity for science and technology within the United Nations Secretariat and under paragraph 2 the General Assembly would decide that the new organizational entity shall be headed by an Under-Secretary-General and be located at United Nations Headquarters. Further in paragraph 4, the General Assembly would decide to allocate the necessary resources from the regular budget to the new organizational entity drawing to the fullest extent on resources already existing within the United Nations including the posts and budgetary resources of the Office for Science and Technology.

8. The Secretary-General has reviewed the over-all level of staffing requirements for this new entity in the context of preliminary information in paragraph 16 of document A/34/587/Add.1. As indicated there, the exact number of staff that can be redeployed from the existing Office for Science and Technology in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs would depend on the outcome of a review to be undertaken by the Department of its needs in respect of those elements of the Programme of Action coming within its terms of reference.

9. It is expected that this review would be completed in 1980 at which time the Secretary-General would be in a position to make proposals for the transfer from

^{1/} It will be recalled that some provisions have already been requested within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 for meetings of the Advisory Committee, on the Application of Science and of Technology to Development and also for a meeting of the existing Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Fifth Committee at its 52nd meeting on 19 November decided to postpone consideration of sections 4A8 and 4A9 to a later date.

DIESA to the new entity of the posts and other budgetary resources not required for DIESA to undertake its own continuing responsibilities under the Vienna Plan of Action. In this connexion, it is proposed that the most expeditious manner of proceeding on this point would be for the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General, subject to the review and approval of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to make the necessary transfers from section 6 of the programme budget (DIESA) to section 5B and to report on the matter to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

10. In the light of the uncertainties prevailing the Secretary-General believes that only the post of the head of the new Secretariat and supporting General Service posts should be established in 1980 and the balance of other professional and higher level and General Service posts should be provided on a temporary post basis for 1980. The additional staffing requirements estimated on the basis of responsibilities 1/ to be undertaken by the Secretariat in respect of the Vienna Plan of Action are as follows:

(a) Established posts (1980-1981)	\$	
1 Under-Secretary-General	84,000	
1 G-5 Personal assistant	30,400	
1 G-4 Secretary	21,900	
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Total established post salaries and common staff		136,300
(b) Temporary posts (1980 only)		
1 D-2 Director	32,100	
1 D-1 Principal Officer	29,300	
2 P-5 Senior Officers	53,600	
2 P-4 First Officers	45,200	
1 P-3 Second Officer	18,800	
1 G-5 Administrative Assistant	14,800	
5 G-4 Secretaries and typists	53,500	
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Total for temporary posts		247,300
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Grand total for staff		383,600
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1/ As outlined in paras. 6 and 7 of A/34/587/Add.1.

11. The associated common services costs for the above staffing would be as follows:

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Accommodation	78,600	
Office furniture and equipment	40,400	
Office supplies	1,000	
Office machines (rental)	800	
Communications	11,200	
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Total		<u>132,000</u>

12. The appropriate adjustments have been made to the standard costs used to reflect the provisions necessary for the three established posts for the period 1980-1981 and for the balance of the staffing for 1980 only.

13. Requirements in respect of official travel of staff are tentatively estimated at \$38,000 in 1980. It will be appreciated that precise identification of requirements is not possible at this time; however, it is expected that the Under-Secretary-General will need to visit each of the Regional Commissions and undertake with other supporting staff approximately four missions for purposes of consultations and co-ordination with agencies and relevant scientific and technological centres and institutes. The above estimates are believed to be minimum requirements to ensure that the initial activities of the new secretariat entity will maintain the momentum generated by the Vienna conference.

III

Requirements in respect of part V of the draft resolution

14. In paragraph 5 of part V of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide to establish an intergovernmental group of experts composed of 27 members to be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution to undertake with the support of the Director General for Development and International Economic Co-operation a prompt and thorough study of all relevant arrangements for the operation of the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. It is estimated that the group would need to meet twice in 1980, initially for one week and subsequently for two weeks and twice in 1981 for two weeks each to finalize its study. The costs of such meetings are estimated on the following basis:

- (a) That the Group of Experts would meet in New York;
- (b) That interpretation would be in English, French, Russian and Spanish;

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(c) That pre-session and in-session documentation would be in English, French, Russian and Spanish and post-session documentation would be in all six working languages of the General Assembly;

(d) That the cost of travel and attendance of members of the Advisory Committee would be borne by the United Nations.

15. The costs of travel and attendance of members of the proposed advisory committee are estimated at \$275,200.

16. Given the highly specialized and technical nature of the areas to be studied 1/ by the expert group the necessary substantive support to the expert group would involve not only the direct use of staff resources but also the use of consulting services of approximately 18 work months each year. The costs of this are estimated at \$144,000 for the biennium 1980-1981.

17. The related estimated conference servicing costs will be reported to the Committee orally. These requirements will be reviewed in the context of a consolidated statement on total conference servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly toward the end of the thirty-fourth session.

18. In paragraph 7 of the draft resolution the General Assembly would decide to establish on a separate and identifiable basis, pending the coming into operation of the Financing System, an Interim Fund, for the two year period 1980-1981. The Secretary-General has already provided in document A/34/587/Add.2 a statement of the financial implications which would arise should the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Administrator of UNDP for initial administrative and programme support costs of the Interim Fund. As indicated in paragraph 10 of that document an additional appropriation of \$1,041,400 would be required but this would be fully offset by an increase under the income section of the budget reflecting the reimbursement due to the United Nations from the Interim Fund once it is declared operational.

Summary

19. The above statement of financial and administrative implications which would arise should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in document A/C.2/34/L.79 and Corr.1 would require additional appropriations totalling \$2,014,200 2/ excluding items relating to conference servicing. These costs will, as noted above, be subject to review within the context of the consolidated

1/ The various disciplines involved include development planning, financial expertise, natural science and technology, social and human sciences, and general management and administration.

2/ Includes the amount of \$1,041,400 already indicated in document A/34/587/Add.2 as being offset by an equal amount of income under the income sections of the budget.

statement of financial implications to be presented to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session. As the arrangements proposed are of a strictly interim nature the Secretary-General would expect to present revised estimates in respect of the new entity for Science and Technology at the thirty-fifth session.
