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DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Administrative and financial implications of the report of the Working Group of the Whole on the Drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women contained in document A/C.3/34/14

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

1. In annex 1 of its report, the Working Group of the Whole transmits to the Third Committee the text of the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Under part V of the draft Convention, various alternatives are outlined in respect of the establishment of a "body" for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Any of the alternatives outlined under part V would, if adopted, give rise to administrative and financial implications. The present statement therefore gives an indication of the estimated costs, at 1979 rates, relating to the convening of one session of the "body" as envisaged under each of the alternatives outlined under part V, namely, (a) the original version, (b) the Swedish proposal, and (c) the Ecuadorian proposal.
2. However, inasmuch as the adoption of the Convention would not result in its entry into force until the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, it is not possible to foresee at this stage the date of the establishment of the aforementioned "body" that would review the progress made in its implementation. No appropriation would therefore be requested at the current session of the General Assembly on the understanding that should the draft convention be adopted and subsequently enter into force during the biennium 1980-1981, and thus give rise to expenditures, these would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the performance report.

(a) Original version

3. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention an ad hoc group of 10 to 15 persons who would serve in their personal capacity would be established by the Commission on the Status of Women or, according to the Norwegian revised amendment to the original version, by the Commission on the Status of Women or other body under the Economic and Social Council that the States parties to the Convention may nominate. The ad hoc group would meet for a period of not more than two weeks, in Vienna, before the opening of the regular session of the Commission on the Status of Women and would report to the Commission.

4. Accordingly, the members of the ad hoc group would be entitled to travel at the expense of the United Nations for attendance at the sessions of the ad hoc Group and to subsistence payments for the duration of the sessions. The costs for travel and subsistence for 15 persons for each session of the ad hoc Group are estimated at \$37,000.

5. Conference servicing requirements for each session, based on the further assumption that there would be 250 pages of pre-session, 75 pages of in-session and 50 pages of post-session documentation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and interpretation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish are estimated, on the basis of full costing, at 273,800.

6. The establishment of the ad hoc group would require the approval of the Economic and Social Council in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Council which states that "except for the regional commissions, the commissions and committees of the Council shall not create either standing or ad hoc intersessional subsidiary bodies without prior approval of the Council".

(b) Swedish proposal

7. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, a committee would be established consisting, at the time of entry into force of the Convention, of 18 and, after its ratification or accession by the thirty-fifth State party, of 23 experts who would serve in their personal capacity. The Committee would meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually and would, through the Economic and Social Council, submit its report to the General Assembly. The initial election of 18 members would be held six months after the date of entry into force of the Convention at a meeting of States parties convened by the Secretary-General at Headquarters and the election of the additional five members would be held following the thirty-fifth ratification or accession at a meeting of States parties convened by the Secretary-General at Headquarters.

8. Conference servicing costs for the first meeting of States parties are based on the assumptions that the meeting would last one day and that there would be 40 pages of pre-session, five pages of in-session and five pages of post-session documentation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The estimated conference servicing requirements of the meeting, on the basis of full costing, is \$59,200. Conference servicing costs for the second meeting of States parties, based on the assumptions that the meeting would last one day and that there would be 30 pages of pre-session, five pages of in-session and five pages of post-session documentation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and interpretation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, are estimated at \$60,500.

9. Conference servicing costs for each session of the Committee, based on the assumption that each session would last for two weeks and that there would be 250 pages of pre-session and 75 pages of in-session documentation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, 50 pages of post session documentation in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and interpretation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, are estimated at \$227,300.

10. The cost of travel and subsistence of members of the Committee is estimated at \$47,000 for 18 members and \$60,000 for 23 members for each session of the Committee. In the light of the provision contained in the Swedish proposal stating that States parties would be responsible for the expenses of members of the Committee while they are in the performance of Committee duties, this estimated cost for travel and subsistence of the Committee members would not be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations but would be apportioned among States parties to the Convention.

11. The Bangladesh alternative version to the Swedish proposal would provide that members of the Committee would, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly might decide. Under the terms of this proposal and bearing in mind the arrangements relating to the payment of honoraria to the members of the Human Rights Committee, the Chairman of the Committee would receive \$2,500 and each member \$1,000 annually. Should this proposal be adopted, it would have a further financial implication to the regular budget of the Organization amounting to \$23,500 annually.

(c) Ecuadorian proposal

12. For the purpose of considering progress made in the implementation of the Convention, an ad hoc working group of the Economic and Social Council would be established consisting of 23 States parties to the Convention who would be members of the Council and would normally meet annually for a period of not more than two weeks during the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council and would report annually to the Council. Conference servicing costs for each session of the Working Group, based on the assumption that the Working Group would meet for a period of two weeks and that there would be 250 pages of

pre-session, 75 pages of in-session and 50 pages of post-session documentation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish and interpretation in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, are estimated at \$221,200. The travel and attendance of members of the Working Group would be borne by the respective Governments and would entail no financial implications for the United Nations.
