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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

Budget and programme performance of the United Nations for
the biennium 1978-1979

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Section 20. Legal Activities

PART VII

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SECTION 20. LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Table 20.1

(In thousands of United States dollars)

A. Regular budget						
Revised appropriation 1978-1979	Estimated additional requirements					Total revised estimate
	Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy-making organs	Other changes	Total	
9 202.6	23.3	6.0	-	(1 223.6)	(1 194.3)	\$ 008.3

B. Extrabudgetary resources (substantive and administrative support)		
Previously estimated expenditures 1978-1979	Source of funds	Revised estimate
100.5	Technical co-operation reimbursement resources	77.0
82.7	Support to extrabudgetary administrative structures	213.4
183.2	Total, B	290.4

9 385.8	Total, A and B	8 298.7
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C. Extrabudgetary resources (operational projects)		
Previously estimated expenditures 1978-1979	Source of funds	Revised estimate
	Total, C	

	Total, A, B and C	
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Table 20.2

Regular budget: distribution of revised estimates by programme
(in thousands of United States dollars)

Programmes	Revised appropriations 1978-1979	Estimated additional requirements						Total 1978-1979 revised estimates
		Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy-making organs	Redeployment	Other changes	Total	
A. Policy-making organs:								
1. International Law Commission	1 111.4	-	-	-	-	(209.7)	(209.7)	901.7
2. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	172.7	-	-	-	-	(7.5)	(7.5)	165.2
3. United Nations Administrative Tribunal, including its secretariat	281.9	.5	-	-	-	(11.9)	(11.4)	270.5
Total A	1 566.0	.5	-	-	-	(229.1)	(228.6)	1 337.4
B. Special meetings and conferences:								
1. Conference on Succession of States	38.9	-	-	-	-	32.9	32.9	71.8
2. Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages	28.0	-	-	-	-	(3.2)	(3.2)	24.8
3. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	10.0	-	-	-	-	3.5	3.5	13.5
Total B	76.9	-	-	-	-	33.2	33.2	110.1

Table 20.2 (continued)

Regular budget: distribution of revised estimates by programme
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programmes	Revised appropriations 1978-1979	Estimated additional requirements						Total 1978-1979 revised estimates
		Inflation	Rates of exchange	Decisions of policy-making organs	Redeployment	Other changes	Total	
C. Office of Legal Affairs:								
1. Executive direction and management	946.5	3.8	-	-	35.7	(34.0)	5.5	952.0
2. International Trade Law Branch	1 277.6	1.9	6.0	-	-	(190.0)	(182.1)	1 095.5
3. Depository functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties	1 861.9	5.8	-	-	(19.7)	(549.2)	(563.1)	1 298.8
4. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	194.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	194.0
5. Codification Division	1 265.3	5.0	-	-	98.6	3.4	107.0	1 372.3
6. General Legal Division	2 014.4	6.3	-	-	(114.6)	(257.9)	(366.2)	1 648.2
Total C	7 559.7	22.8	6.0	-	-	(1 027.7)	(998.9)	6 560.8
Grand total	9 202.6	23.3	6.0	-	-	(1 223.6)	(1 194.3)	8 008.3

Table 20.3

Regular budget: distribution of estimated additional requirements
by programme and by main object of expenditure
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programmes	Salaries and common staff costs	Travel	Printing	Other contractual services	General operating expenses	Supplies, materials, furniture and equipment	Other	Total
A. Policy-making organs:								
1. International Law Commission	-	(168.6)	(26.0)	(15.1)	-	-	-	(209.7)
2. United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	-	(7.5)	-	-	-	-	-	(7.5)
3. United Nations Administrative Tribunal, including its secretariat	(5.4)	(1.9)	(3.3)	(.8)	-	-	-	(11.4)
Total A	(5.4)	(178.0)	(29.3)	(15.9)	-	-	-	(228.6)
B. Special meetings and Conferences:								
1. Conference on Succession of States	-	-	32.9	-	-	-	-	32.9
2. Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages	-	(3.2)	-	-	-	-	-	(3.2)
3. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	-	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	3.5
Total B	-	.3	32.9	-	-	-	-	33.2

Table 20.3 (continued)

Regular budget: distribution of estimated additional requirements by programme and by main object of expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programmes	Salaries and common staff costs	Travel	Printing	Other contractual services	General operating expenses	Supplies, materials, furniture and equipment	Other	Total
C. Office of Legal Affairs:								
1. Executive direction and management	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.5
2. International Trade Law Branch	(178.1)	(4.0)	-	-	-	-	-	(182.1)
3. Depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties	53.4	-	(616.5)	-	-	-	-	(563.1)
4. United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Codification Division	151.1	(9.3)	(34.8)	-	-	-	-	107.0
6. General Legal Division	(213.6)	3.1	(143.1)	(12.6)	-	-	-	(366.2)
Total C	(181.7)	(10.2)	(794.4)	(12.6)	-	-	-	(998.9)
Grand Total	(187.1)	(187.9)	(790.8)	(28.5)	-	-	-	(1 194.3)

SECTION 20. LEGAL ACTIVITIES

A. Policy-making organs

I. Programme developments

International Law Commission

20.1 In addition to the planned activities for the biennium, as described in paragraph 20.4 of the Secretary-General's initial programme budget proposals for 1978-1979, the Commission, at its thirtieth session, adopted the final text of its draft on most-favoured-nation clauses and, at its thirty-first session, in first reading, its draft on succession of states in respect of matters other than treaties.

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

20.2 The Commission essentially carried out its planned programme of work, as described in paragraph 20.6 of the Secretary-General's initial programme budget proposals for 1978-1979, except that no international symposia were held during the current biennium. Additionally, the Commission established a working group to consider the legal implications of the new international economic order.

United Nations Administrative Tribunal and its secretariat

20.3 It is expected that the Tribunal will have rendered 23 judgements by the end of the current biennium.

II. Revised budget estimates

20.4 Savings of \$168,600 under travel in respect of the International Law Commission are mainly attributable to less than full participation by representatives and to the fact that representatives did not attend as many other meetings as had been envisaged. Less than full participation by representatives also accounts for an unexpended balance of \$15,100 under honoraria. The savings of \$26,000 under external printing are due to an over-estimation of costs for the approved publication programme.

B. Special meetings and conferences

Conference on Succession of States

20.5 The Conference adopted on 22 August 1978 the Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect of Treaties and the five resolutions annexed to the Final Act. The Convention, which is subject to ratification and is open to accession by any State, consists of a preamble, 50 articles and an annex concerning conciliation procedure.

20.6 Additional resources of \$32,900 are required for printing volume III of the documents of the Conference in four languages.

C. Office of Legal Affairs

I. Programme developments

20.7 In the interests of efficiency, and to give effect to changing emphases in its work patterns, the Office of Legal Affairs proposed a reorganization plan which was approved by the Administrative Management Service (AMS). As a result, the following functions were transferred from the General Legal Division to the Office of the Legal Counsel: implementation and protection of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, the legal aspects of operations in respect of political and peace-keeping operations, and certain aspects of the preparation and interpretation of rules and procedures of United Nations organs (see para. 20.12 below). Additionally, during 1979 the Office of Legal Affairs assumed responsibility for all legal services required by UNDP, including its subsidiary or affiliated programmes and funds. In order to carry out these functions, as well as the similar responsibilities which have been assumed for other extrabudgetary administrative structures, such as UNICEF, additional posts were authorized from extrabudgetary resources.

International Trade Law Branch

20.8 The International Trade Law Branch was transferred to Vienna with effect from 1 September 1979. In connexion with the transfer, the Branch assumed responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of a reference law library. In addition to the programme of work originally envisaged, the Branch undertook the preparation of all documentation, including the commentary on the draft Convention to be considered at the 1980 Conference on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods.

Depositary functions of the Secretary-General and registration and publication of treaties

20.9 As a result of the retroactive application of General Assembly resolution 33/141 A, which provided for the publication of treaties and other international agreements in the Treaty Series on a more limited basis, and the almost simultaneous adoption of a new format permitting an increase of up to 20 per cent per page in the material published, the backlog in the publication of the Treaty Series is expected to be reduced to 260 volumes by the end of the biennium. It is expected that 31 volumes will have been published during 1978-1979. Additionally, as a result of the redeployment of resources from external printing to temporary assistance, the backlog in the registration of treaties will have been reduced from 20 to 12 months in respect of administrative operations, and from 34 to 30 months in respect of the publication of the Monthly Statement of Treaties. Also, the backlog in the typing of manuscripts of 5,800 pages will be eliminated by the end of the biennium.

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

20.10 During the current biennium, 33 fellowships were awarded for attendance at The Hague Academy of International Law, and 11 travel grants were provided to participants from developing countries attending the regional training course held in Mexico City in May 1979.

Codification Division

20.11 In addition to servicing the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the Codification Division provided substantive secretariat support to five ad hoc or special committees and the Conference on Succession of States in respect of Treaties. Research projects and studies undertaken by the Division in areas other than those already specified in the work programme of the International Law Commission ^{1/} included the review of the multilateral treaty-making process, of the jurisdictional immunities of States and their property, and of relations between States and international organizations. The 1976 and 1977 (English only) editions of the United Nations Juridical Yearbook and volume 17 of the Reports of International Arbitral Awards were published.

II. Revised budget estimates:

Redeployment of posts

20.12 In implementation of the reorganization of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Controller approved the redeployment with effect from 1 April 1979, of five established posts from the General Legal Division to the Office of the Legal Counsel (P-5), the Treaty Section (G-4/1) and the Codification Division (P-3, P-2 and G-4/1). Additionally, due to the increased workload in connexion with the servicing of ad hoc committees and conferences, a P-2 post was lent by the Treaty Section to the Codification Division for the period 1 January 1978 through 31 March 1979.

Salaries and common staff costs

20.13 The net savings of \$181,700 under salaries and common staff costs are attributable in the main to a 17 per cent vacancy factor in the International Trade Law Branch, a savings of approximately \$20,000 in connexion with estimated common staff cost requirements for staff transferred to Vienna and a vacancy of 17.5 months at the D-2 level in the General Legal Division, offset by the need for increased temporary assistance for the Treaty Section (one P-2 and five G-4/1 posts during the period March-December 1979) which was authorized to permit some amelioration of the backlog in the registration and publication of treaties.

External printing

20.14 Savings of \$794,400 under external printing result from (a) the publication of 31 volumes of the Treaty Series instead of 90 volumes as originally planned

^{1/} A/32/6, para. 20.4.

(see para. 20.9 above), (b) the postponement of the publication of further Supplements to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and (c) postponement of the publication of Legislative Series No. 20 and of the printing of the French, Spanish and Russian versions of the 1977 Juridical Yearbook.