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DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of the draft
resolution recommend by the Third Committee
(A/34/830, para. 18)

Twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement (A/C.5/34/94) by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee (A/34/830, para. 18).
2. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would adopt and open for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the text of which is annexed to the resolution.
3. In document A/C.5/34/94 the Secretary-General identifies three areas of potential financial implications:
 - (a) Conference servicing costs related to the meetings of the States Parties and of a committee of experts, to be called the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
 - (b) Travel and subsistence of members of the committee of experts;
 - (c) Emoluments for the Chairman and the members of the committee of experts.
4. In paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/34/94, the Secretary-General states that the Convention will enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession. As

it is impossible, at this stage, to foretell when that will take place, the Secretary-General is not seeking any appropriations under the programme budget for 1980-1981 related to the three areas of expenditure listed in paragraph 3 above.

5. As regards the emoluments of the Chairman and the members of the future committee of experts, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 7 of his report, relates them to the provision in part V (article 17, para. 8 (a)) of the Convention which states that

"The members of the Committee shall, with the approval of the General Assembly of the United Nations, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities."

In paragraph 7 the Secretary-General suggests that the Chairman and the members of the Committee receive the same honoraria as are currently paid to the Chairman and the members of the Human Rights Committee.

6. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes that the Convention provides that the emoluments would be "on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide". In other words, a separate decision by the Assembly will be required on the terms and conditions of the emoluments. The Committee recalls that the over-all question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations was on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly but that at its 60th meeting, on 27 November 1979, the Fifth Committee recommended that its consideration should be deferred until the thirty-fifth session.

7. When the General Assembly considers this question it will have before it, inter alia, a report which the Advisory Committee submitted at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly. 1/ In paragraph 7 of that report the Advisory Committee referred to the second preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 3536 (XXX) in which the Assembly recalled "the basic principle to the effect that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowances and travel expenses shall normally be paid to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations".

8. In paragraph 8 of its report the Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that, "since it was the Assembly which established the basic principle with regard to the payment of honoraria, and since it was the Assembly which, in each case, decided upon the exceptions, it must be for the Assembly alone to decide whether these exceptions should be maintained, increased or abolished". 2/

9. The above considerations apply to the question of the payment of emoluments to the members of the future Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.39.

2/ Ibid.

Women. The Advisory Committee recommends that this question be considered in the context of the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, at which time the Secretary-General should submit a proposal related to the future Committee.

10. Subject to the above observations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Third Committee (A/34/830, para. 18), no additional appropriations would be required at this stage under the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.
