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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Revised estimates under section 4. Policy-making
organs (Economic and social activities)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
recommended by the Second Committee (A/34/767, para. 11)

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered two reports by the Secretary-General related to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be held at Nairobi during August 1981. In his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Secretary-General submits revised estimates under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 in the amount of \$4,114,000 for non-conference costs (and \$3,020,760 under section 29 for conference costs). In his statement (A/C.5/34/96), the Secretary-General estimates the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee (A/34/767, para. 11) at \$995,600 for non-conference costs under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 and at \$392,000 under section 29 for conference-servicing costs.

A. Revised estimates under section 4. Policy-making organs
(Economic and social activities) (A/C.5/34/74)

2. The Secretary-General's estimate of \$4,114,000 for additional non-conference costs, net of staff assessment, is summarized in the table below:

Summary of costs by activity and object of expenditure

Object of expenditure	Activity				
	Conference secretariat \$	Technical panels \$	Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters \$	Regional preparations \$	Information activities \$
General temporary assistance	2 090 500	-	37 100	318 500	209 900
Consultants	684 600	-	-	-	-
<u>Ad Hoc Expert Groups</u>	128 800	-	-	32 100	-
Travel of staff	122 700	-	-	88 900	30 100
Travel of participants	-	287 700	-	-	153 900
Contractual services	-	-	-	-	475 100
General operating expenses	20 600	-	-	-	-
Supplies and materials	27 500	-	-	-	-
Subtotal by activity	3 074 700	287 700	37 100	439 500	869 000
Grand total all activities					4 708 000
Less: appropriation for 1980-1981 approved by Fifth Committee in first reading at its 52nd meeting, on 19 November 1979:					594 000
<u>Net additional appropriation requested</u>					4 114 000

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Conference secretariat

3. The Secretary-General requests \$2,090,500 under General Temporary Assistance for 23 additional temporary posts during 1980-1981 as follows:

Substantive staff

A/C.5/34/74

one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 (technical panel specialists)	para. 7
one P-4 (energy economist)	" 8
three P-5 (experts for special studies)	" 9

Generalist and administrative staff

one P-4, one P-2, one G-5, one G-3/4 (Administrative Unit)	" 10
one P-4 (liaison work)	" 11
one P-5, one P-3 (special assistants to the Secretary-General of the Conference)	" 11
one P-2, one G-5 (Documentation Unit)	" 12

Secretarial support

seven G-3/4	" 13
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4. The Advisory Committee inquired into the current deployment of the posts authorized for the Conference secretariat by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. The Committee was informed that the D-1 post approved for a Senior Technical Adviser who would be responsible for the co-ordination of the work of the substantive panels, including the integration of contributions by individual consultants on those sources of energy not covered by the panels 1/ was being used for an Executive Secretary of the Conference secretariat; that one of the four posts authorized for P-5 level Technical Officers to service the technical panels 2/ was being used for a liaison officer; and that the P-3 level post approved for a Technical Editor 3/ was being used for an assistant to the Secretary-General of the Conference. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, staffing resources authorized for technical preparations for the Conference should not be used for other purposes.

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.31, para. 10.

2/ Ibid., para. 13.

3/ Ibid., para. 16.

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5. The Advisory Committee recalls also that the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly at its thirty-third session that "the substantive support for the Conference preparations would be based around the existing capabilities of the Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport (CNRET) ^{4/} at United Nations Headquarters, appropriately strengthened where necessary by a temporary Conference staff and outside expertise" (A/C.5/33/109, para. 5 (f)). The Advisory Committee had been informed in that connexion that fuel wood was the only topic on which in-house expertise was not available. ^{5/} In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that support from the Division had been confined to the part-time services of two technical advisers and to intermittent assistance by other staff of the Centre. The Advisory Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division's input into the preparatory work of the Conference corresponds to the undertaking given to the General Assembly at its last session.

6. Bearing in mind the information contained in paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/74) and additional oral information provided by his representatives, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the following six substantive posts: one P-5 for the Technical Panel on oil shale and tar sands, one P-4 for wind energy, one P-3 for geothermal energy, and three P-5s for special studies on the transfer of technology, financing and information flows.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends, however, that the request for one P-4 temporary post for an energy economist "to help provide an over-all assessment of the economic viability of the use of new and renewable sources of energy" (A/C.5/34/74, para. 8) not be approved. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee the tasks envisaged for this post should be carried out from within existing resources and utilizing the expertise available in the Centre for Natural Resources and Energy.

8. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General's over-all request for six Professional temporary posts for non-technical purposes has not been fully justified. In particular, the Committee believes that the number of posts requested can be reduced by combining functions. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommends that the size of the Administrative Unit should be reduced from four (one P-4, one P-2, one G-5 and one G-3/4) to three, through the deletion of the proposed P-2 post for an Associate Administrative Officer. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the G-5 post of Documentation Clerk, but not of the P-2 post for a Documents Officer.

9. In the light of the justifications provided by the Secretary-General in paragraph 11 of his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Advisory Committee has no objection to his request for one P-4 temporary post for liaison work with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Advisory Committee recalls that at its thirty-third session the General Assembly approved a G-5 post for a personal assistant to the Secretary-General of the Conference. In the circumstances the

^{4/} This organizational unit is now known as the Division of Natural Resources and Energy (A/C.5/34/72, para. 3).

^{5/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.31, para. 12.

Advisory Committee is not convinced that there is also need for two special assistants to the Secretary-General of the Conference (one P-5 and one P-3), and recommends that only the request for the P-5 post be approved.

10. In paragraphs 7 to 9 above the Advisory Committee has recommended that the number of Professional temporary posts be reduced by four. Consequently, the Committee recommends approval of five General Service posts as against seven requested by the Secretary-General in paragraph 13 of his report (A/C.5/34/74).

11. The Advisory Committee notes from foot-note 3 in document A/C.5/34/74 that the Secretary-General has calculated salaries and common staff costs for the new posts on the basis of nine months in 1980. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that difficulties were experienced in the recruitment of staff with the requisite technical expertise. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the posts should be costed on the basis of six months in 1980, on the understanding that, should recruitment be effected more expeditiously, the resulting over-expenditure would be reflected by the Secretary-General in his budget performance report for the biennium 1980-1981.

12. The consequential budgetary reductions of the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 7 to 11 above are as follows:

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Reduction in the number of posts requested (one P-4, one P-3, two P-2, two G-3/4)	308,300
Increased delayed-recruitment deduction for the 17 posts recommended for approval (five P-5, three P-4, one P-3, two G-5, six G-3/4)	146,300
Common services costs related to the proposed reduction of posts	48,400
	<hr/> 503,000 <hr/>

13. In paragraphs 15 to 20 of his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Secretary-General requests \$684,600 for consultant services as follows:

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at \$4,200 per work-month

(a) 64 work-months for the 8 Technical Panels (para. 15)	\$268,800
(b) 12 additional work-months for 4 of these Technical Panels (para. 16)	\$ 50,400
(c) 4 work-months for a study on energy storage (para. 16)	\$ 16,800
(d) 18 work-months for special studies (para. 17)	\$ 75,600
(e) 40 work-months for regional commissions (para. 18)	\$168,000
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Subtotal (138 work-months)	\$579,600
(f) FAO subcontract in connexion with comprehensive study on draught animal power (para. 20)	\$105,000
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Total	\$684,600
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14. Bearing in mind the Secretary-General's statement that "it is difficult at this stage to specifically identify each assignment to be given to specialized consultants in the service of the respective panels" (*ibid.*, para. 15) the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General's estimate of 76 work-months of consultant services for the Panels represents an order of magnitude. Furthermore, in the light of the recommendation in paragraph 6 above that the General Assembly approve the three P-5 posts for the special studies, the Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General's projected requirements of 18 work-months of consultancy services for similar studies (*ibid.*, para. 17) can be reduced. The Committee has no objection to the proposed provision of 40 work-months of consultancy services for specific use of the regional commissions. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should approve a total of 113 work-months of consultancy services (instead of 138 work-months as proposed) at a cost of \$474,600. The Committee further recommends that the request for \$105,000 for a subcontract to FAO for the conduct of a comprehensive study on draught animal power be reduced by \$30,000 to \$75,000. The Advisory Committee recommends therefore, that the request for consultant services should be reduced from \$684,600 to \$549,600, i.e., by \$135,000.

15. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the requests for \$128,800 for ad hoc expert groups and \$122,700 for travel of staff of the Conference secretariat, for the reasons stated by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 21 and 22 of his report (A/C.5/34/74).

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16. The Secretary-General's request for \$20,600 under General Operating Expenses for the Conference secretariat is intended to provide \$10,000 for hospitality 6/ and \$10,600 for the rental of a word processor and the purchase of related supplies (A/C.5/34/74, para. 26). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the request for \$10,000 for hospitality for the Conference. With regard to the rental of a word processor, the Advisory Committee recommends that the cost of \$10,600 should be absorbed.

17. The request for \$27,500 for supplies and materials comprises \$5,000 for books and subscriptions 7/ and \$22,500 for public information supplies, mainly recording tapes for radio programmes (A/C.5/34/74, para. 41). The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this request.

Technical Panels

18. The Secretary-General's request for \$287,700 for this activity covers \$69,100 for travel and subsistence for the Working Group of Panel Chairmen 8/ and \$218,600 for travel and subsistence of members of the eight Technical Panels (A/C.5/34/74, paras. 24-25). The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has enlarged by 19 the total membership of the Panels i.e. from 68 as originally envisaged to 87. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the request for \$287,700.

Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (OSSECS)

19. The Secretary-General refers to the proposed role of OSSECS in the servicing of the Conference in paragraph 30 of his report (A/C.5/34/74). According to him, "in addition to its regular staff members who would be assigned to service the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself", the following additional resources will be required: one D-1 Co-ordinator for three months, one P-5 Editor for three months, and one G-4 staff member for four months at an estimated total cost of \$37,100. The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

Regional commissions (ESCAP, ECLIA, ECA, ECWA)

20. The Secretary-General submits revised estimates in the amount of \$439,500 to provide for (a) general temporary assistance comprising 20 work-months at the P-4 and local levels for each of the regional commissions (\$318,500); (b) expert group meetings at the regional level (\$32,100); and (c) travel of staff to attend regional meetings, meetings of the Technical Panels and the Conference (\$88,900). In the light of the information provided by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 27 to 29 of his report (A/C.5/34/74), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of his request.

6/ An estimate of \$10,000 for hospitality is included in the summary table in A/C.5/34/74 but is not mentioned in the text of the document.

7/ An estimate for books and subscriptions is included in the summary table in A/C.5/34/74 but is not mentioned in the text of the document.

8/ An estimate of \$69,100 for the Working Group of Panel Chairmen is included in the summary table in A/C.5/34/74 but is not mentioned in the text of the document.

Information activities

21. The request for \$869,000 for information activities is intended to provide:

(i) General temporary assistance (\$209,900)

- 1 P-4 Information Officer for 24 months (A/C.5/34/74, para. 32)
- 1 P-2 Information Officer for 9 months (" , para. 32)
- 1 G-4 support staff for 24 months (" , para. 32)
- 1 G-5 Mailing List Clerk for 3 months (" , para. 33)
- 1 P-3 full-time radio programme Writer/
Producer (" , para. 34)
- 1 G-5 full-time radio programme
Production Assistant (" , para. 34)

(ii) Travel of staff (\$30,100)

Travel and subsistence costs of Information Officers and the radio programme's Writer/Producer (A/C.5/34/74, para. 35)

(iii) Contractual services (\$475,100)

As detailed in A/C.5/34/74, paragraphs 36 to 39

(iv) Travel of participants (\$153,900)

Study tours and pre-conference encounter for
selected journalists (A/C.5/34/74, para. 40)

22. While the Advisory Committee does not object to the request for general temporary assistance, travel of staff and meeting participants in the amounts indicated in the preceding paragraph, it is not convinced that the request for \$475,100 for contractual services is fully justified. In the Committee's opinion economies can be achieved, for example, in the production of publications and other printed promotional material for the Conference, in the design and printing of the poster and in the proposed conduct of exhibitions. The Committee further questions the request for funds for documentation for non-governmental organizations. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommends that the request for \$869,000 for information activities be reduced at this stage by \$169,000 to \$700,000.

Conference-servicing costs

23. The Secretary-General estimates conference-servicing costs in 1980-1981 related to the Technical Panels, the Panel of Chairmen and the Conference itself at \$3,020,760 on a full-cost basis. Requirements for 1980 will be reflected in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

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Recapitulation

24. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 12, 14, 16 and 22 above, if approved by the General Assembly, would entail an over-all reduction of \$817,600 in the Secretary-General's revised estimates in document A/C.5/34/74 for non-conference costs under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, i.e., from \$4,114,000 to \$3,296,400. There would also be need for an appropriation of \$477,000 (instead of \$577,600 as requested by the Secretary-General) under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimates of income under Income section 1.

B. Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee (A/34/767, para. 11)

25. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee (A/34/767, para. 11), the General Assembly would request

"the Secretary-General and the organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to provide appropriate assistance, including technical assistance, to developing countries at their request and in accordance with established procedures, in their preparations for the Conference /on New and Renewable Sources of Energy/ at the national level through their national focal points and at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels, using, inter alia, to the greatest extent possible, existing resources".

26. In paragraph 8 of his statement (A/C.5/34/96), the Secretary-General estimates the related requirements, exclusive of conference-servicing costs, at \$995,600 comprising \$20,600 for the travel of regional commission staff and \$975,000 for technical advisory services. Conference-servicing costs are estimated at \$392,000 in 1980 on a full-cost basis.

27. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the request for \$20,600 for travel of regional commission staff. As regards the request for \$975,000 for technical advisory services, the Committee notes that it is intended to provide some 150 work-months of such services. The Secretary-General states that the estimate is "based on experience in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development which had a similar requirement for assistance at the national level" (A/C.5/34/96, para. 6). The Advisory Committee is not convinced that experience at one conference will necessarily be fully repeated at other conferences. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the Secretary-General has not exhausted all possibilities for further redeployment of existing resources to meet these additional tasks, as he is required to do pursuant to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution. Considering that it takes time for Member States to identify areas of assistance and that delays frequently occur in the recruitment of experts, the Advisory Committee recommends an over-all reduction of \$275,000 under technical advisory services from \$975,000 to \$700,000, on the understanding that, should developments

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in 1980 warrant it, the Secretary-General may submit revised estimates to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

28. As regards the conference-servicing requirements in 1980 which the Secretary-General estimates at \$392,000 on a full-cost basis, the Advisory Committee notes the statement in paragraph 4 of A/C.5/34/96 that "these estimates will be reviewed in the context of a consolidated statement on total conference-servicing requirements to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current session".

29. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of its report A/34/767 there would be need for an additional appropriation of \$720,600 under section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. Furthermore, conference-servicing costs not exceeding \$392,000 would be reflected in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

30. Should the General Assembly approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 24 and 29 above, the resources which would be made available in 1980-1981 for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, including the amount of \$594,000 already approved by the Fifth Committee in first reading, would be \$4,611,000, exclusive of conference-servicing costs.
