



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/7/Add.28
18 December 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda items 70 and 98

CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution
recommended by the Second Committee (A/34/779, para. 13)

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has given preliminary consideration to document A/C.5/34/101 in which the Secretary-General submits the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development which has been recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 13 of its report in document A/34/779.
2. In document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General makes two proposals. First, he requests an appropriation of \$1,714,600 gross, exclusive of conference costs, under the expenditure sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, and submits increased estimates of income in a total amount of \$1,061,800. On a net basis, therefore, the Secretary-General requests \$652,800 exclusive of conference-servicing costs. Secondly, he seeks authority to commit a further amount of up to \$300,000, over and above the amounts requested by way of appropriations.
3. The request for appropriations is made up as follows:

Section 5B: Centre for Science and Technology for Development

| | <u>United States dollars</u> | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| Established posts and related common staff costs | 128,600 | |
| Travel of staff | 38,000 | |
| Consultants | 144,000 | |
| Travel of representatives | 275,200 | |
| Advance to UNDP for the initial administrative and programme support costs of the Interim Fund | 1,041,400 | 1,627,200 |

Section 28D: Administration, Management and General Services:
 Office of General Services, Headquarters

| | |
|---|--------|
| Common services costs related to the proposed new established posts | 67,000 |
|---|--------|

Section 31: Staff assessment 20,400

1,714,600

Less:

Income section 1: Income from staff assessment (20,400)

Income section 2: General income

Refund of advance to UNDP (1,041,400)

652,800

4. In its consideration of the request by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee noted that the estimates in document A/C.5/34/101 were submitted too late to make it possible for the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee to consider them in detail. Furthermore, the extent of the additional requirements in 1980-1981 is still uncertain. In particular, the Secretary-General is not in a position at this stage to indicate exactly which resources of the existing Office for Science and Technology will be transferred to the new Centre. As the Fifth Committee is aware, the question of resources for the new Centre is dealt with in operative paragraph 5 of section III of the draft resolution, pursuant to which the General Assembly would decide:

"... to allocate all the necessary resources from the United Nations regular budget to the Centre, drawing to the fullest extent possible on resources already existing within the United Nations, as well as to abolish the Office for Science and Technology, redeploing immediately most of its posts and budgetary resources to the Centre ..."

/...

Pursuant to the same paragraph, the General Assembly would decide further that the proposed Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development "should determine at the earliest possible time whether such resources should be strengthened".

5. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that, except for the request for established posts, consideration of the financial implications of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee be confined at this stage to requirements in 1980. Requirements for 1981 would be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

6. In considering the request for established posts, the Advisory Committee noted that pursuant to operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of section III of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee, the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development would be an organizationally distinct entity, which would be headed by an Assistant Secretary-General who would be responsible to and report directly to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

7. In paragraph 15 of document A/C.5/34/101, the Secretary-General estimates requirements for the new post of Assistant Secretary-General and two supporting staff (one G-5 personal assistant and one G-4 secretary) at \$128,600 in 1980-1981 for salaries and common staff costs. In paragraphs 16 and 27 he estimates the related requirements for common services costs at \$67,000 for the biennium. The Advisory Committee recommends that these two requests be approved.

8. As is stated in paragraph 17 of document A/C.5/34/101, the request for \$38,000 for the travel of the Assistant Secretary-General and supporting staff relates to 1980 only. The Advisory Committee has no objection to this request.

9. The request for \$144,000 for consultants covers the entire biennium. In paragraph 21 of document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General indicates that the estimate assumes the need for approximately 18 work-months of consultancy services a year for substantive support to the intergovernmental group of experts to be established pursuant to operative paragraph 8 (b) of section VI of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee. Given the tentative nature of the assumptions on which the estimate is based, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate \$70,000 for consultancy services in 1980, and that requirements for 1981 be reviewed at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

10. The estimate of \$275,200 for travel of representatives relates to the intergovernmental group of experts to which reference is made in the preceding paragraph. As can be seen from operative paragraph 8 (b) and (c) of section VI of the draft resolution, the group is to consist of 27 experts and it is to submit its final report in 1981. In paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General estimates that the group will hold two sessions in 1980 of a total duration of three weeks and two sessions in 1981 of a total duration of four weeks. These assumptions are necessarily tentative. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve \$135,000 for travel of representatives in 1980, and that requirements for 1981 be considered at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

/...

11. The request for \$1,041,400 by way of an advance to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) relates to the initial administrative and programme support costs of the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development to be created pursuant to the provisions of operative paragraph 8 (d) and (e) of section VI of the draft resolution. In paragraph 8 (e) the Secretary-General is requested to call a pledging conference for the Interim Fund not later than March 1980. Paragraph 8 (e) then goes on to state that "the General Assembly should provide the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with the necessary resources for these initial preparatory responsibilities until the Interim Fund is in operation".

12. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee notes that the initial prospectus for the Interim Fund, which is annexed to the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee contains the following provisions:

"23. The General Assembly shall provide the Administrator with the necessary resources for the initial preparatory responsibility until the Interim Fund is in operation.

24. The administrative expenses of the Interim Fund, once it becomes operational, will be met from its own resources.

25. The Interim Fund will operate with the minimum staff required to perform the functions assigned to it by the General Assembly. Its staff shall be assembled as expeditiously as possible and commensurate with its resources and volume of operations for the interim period."

13. In paragraph 23 of document A/C.5/34/101, the Secretary-General states that the additional appropriation of \$1,041,400 that would be required for the initial administrative and programme support cost of the Interim Fund "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". The procedure outlined by the Secretary-General is consistent with past practice in the case of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and with the decision taken by the Fifth Committee at its 84th meeting on 17 December 1979 as regards the advance of up to \$1.8 million from the regular budget to enable the financing of the preparatory work required for bringing the Common Fund of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) into operation (A/C.5/34/87).

14. In response to inquiries, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the estimate of \$1,041,400 in paragraph 23 of document A/C.5/34/101 was incorrect. As can be seen from annex I to document A/34/587/Add.2 the preliminary budget estimates for the core staff for the preparatory period to 31 March 1980 (i.e., until the proposed Pledging Conference) amount to \$247,030. For the whole of the year 1980 they amount to \$794,320. As the Secretary-General states in paragraph 10 of document A/34/587/Add.2, "in view of the uncertainty as to the exact date the Fund will be declared operational, the Secretary-General would propose to remit funds to the Administrator on an 'as required' basis. Accordingly, funds not remitted by the time the Interim Fund is

/...

declared operational would be surrendered in the context of one of the performance reports due for the biennium 1980-1981".

15. In the light of these considerations, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal regarding a reimbursable advance to UNDP for the initial administrative and programme support costs of the Interim Fund. For the reasons indicated in the preceding paragraph, the advance would be of up to \$800,000. The Committee recommends further that the Secretary-General apprise the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session of developments in 1980 as regards the advance in question.

16. As was stated in paragraph 2 above, the Secretary-General is seeking commitment authority of up to \$300,000 in 1980 over and above his request for appropriations under the programme budget for 1980-1981. As can be seen from paragraph 29 of document A/C.5/34/101, the request for commitment authority reflects a "potential utilization" of those funds for temporary posts and related common staff costs and common services costs. In document A/C.5/34/101 the Secretary-General gives no indication as to the number or grades of the potential temporary posts. However, the Advisory Committee notes that the amount of \$247,300 for salaries and common staff costs in paragraph 29 of that document also appears in paragraph 10 of document A/C.2/34/L.105 where it is related to a total of 13 temporary posts.

17. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee draws attention to two provisions of operative paragraph 5 of section III of the draft resolution. The first of them requires the immediate redeployment of "most" of the posts and budgetary resources of the existing Office for Science and Technology to the new Centre. The second stipulates that the proposed Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development should determine at the earliest possible time whether such resources should be strengthened.

18. Consequently, the redeployment of the existing resources of the Office for Science and Technology to the Centre and the determination by the Intergovernmental Committee of the need for strengthening those resources must precede any commitment of funds by the Secretary-General. In the circumstances, the Committee believes that the commitment authority sought by the Secretary-General should be subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, as in the case of commitments entered into under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. Subject to these observations the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal in paragraph 29 of document A/C.5/34/101 that he be authorized to enter into commitments not exceeding \$300,000.

19. The proposals by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/34/101 involve the creation of a new section, section 5B, in the programme budget for 1980-1981. In paragraph 13 he seeks the authority of the General Assembly to make the necessary transfers in 1980 from section 6 (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) of the programme budget to section 5B in connexion with the redeployment of resources from the Office for Science and Technology to the new Centre. In this connexion, the Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to the provisions of the biennial appropriation resolutions, transfers of credits between sections of

/...

the approved budget require the concurrence of the Advisory Committee (see, for example, para. 2 of General Assembly resolution 31/213 A on the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979).

Recapitulation

20. For the reasons stated above 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 13 of its report (A/34/779), there would be need for additional appropriations in a total amount of \$1,259,000 under sections 5B, 28D and 31 of the programme budget for 1980-1981 as follows:

Section 5B: Centre for Science and Technology for Development

| | <u>United States dollars</u> | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| Established posts and related common staff costs | 128,600 | |
| Travel of staff | 38,000 | |
| Consultants | 70,000 | |
| Travel of representatives | 135,000 | |
| Advance to UNDP | 800,000 | 1,171,600 |

Section 28D: Administration, Management and General Services:
 Office of General Services, Headquarters 67,000

Section 31: Staff assessment 20,400

1,259,000

There would also be need to increase the estimates of income by \$820,400 as follows:

| | |
|---|---------|
| <u>Income section 1:</u> Income from staff assessment | 20,400 |
| <u>Income section 2:</u> General income | 800,000 |
| | 820,400 |

21. Furthermore, there would be need for the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, to enter into commitments under sections 5B and 28D in a total amount not exceeding \$300,000.
