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Agenda items 118 and 56

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Charting potential uses of resources allocated to
military activities for civilian endeavours to
protect the environment

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49

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

1. At its 38th meeting, held on 16 November 1990, the First Committee adopted by a recorded vote draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.1/45/L.60.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to carry out, making use of existing resources and with the assistance of qualified experts, a study of potential uses of resources such as know-how, technology, infrastructure and production currently allocated to military activities for promoting civilian endeavours to protect the environment.

3. By operative paragraph 2, the General Assembly would recommend that the study be based on open information and take into account relevant national and

* Reissued for technical reasons.

international studies and such further information as Member States might wish to make available for the purposes of the study.

4. By operative paragraph 3, the General Assembly would invite all Governments to co-operate with the Secretary-General so that the objectives of the study might be achieved.

5. By operative paragraph 4, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit the final report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and, in the interim, to make relevant results of the study available, as appropriate, to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

B. Relationship of the request to the approved programme of work

6. The above request is related to chapter 1, Political and Security Council affairs activities, programme 2, Activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, subprogramme 3, Studies on disarmament, of the current medium-term plan, as revised, 1/ and section 2B, Disarmament affairs activities, subprogramme 3, Studies on disarmament, programme element 3.2, Studies and their follow-up, which covers the preparation for and execution of various studies requested by the General Assembly in the approved programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

7. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would establish a group of six qualified experts. The group would hold three sessions in New York in 1991 as follows: a three-day session in January, a one-week session in April, and a two-week session in July.

8. It is assumed that the related conference services would be provided for the sessions on the following basis:

(a) The group would meet either in the offices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs or in a small conference room and would not require any conference facilities other than the provision of meeting space;

(b) The group would hold two meetings a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon;

(c) There would be a total of 100 pages of documentation (three documents), of which 80 pages would be issued in the six official languages of the General Assembly.

9. The Department for Disarmament Affairs would make use of existing resources in providing the necessary substantive support services to the group. This would entail the provision of a total of an estimated four work-months of servicing by

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Professional officers of the Department in preparing, carrying out and finalizing the work of the group. However, it is estimated that two work-months of temporary assistance would be required for secretarial support services.

10. To assist the group in its work, it is estimated that six work-months of consultancy services on specific scientific and technological issues, probably employing two consultants, would be required. The consultants would have extensive knowledge and expertise of defence-related technologies, environmental problems and technologies/approaches employed for protection of the environment. The consultants would prepare the successive drafts of the group's report as work proceeded, as well as attend all sessions of the group.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1990-1991

11. The activities of the proposal would fall under programme element 3.2 of subprogramme 3 of section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. Accordingly, no modifications to that programme element would be required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

12. The requirements to undertake the activities contained in paragraphs 7 to 10 above are as follows:

	<u>1991</u> \$
(a) <u>Conference-servicing costs</u>	
(see annex for breakdown of documentation requirements)	<u>85 000</u>
(b) <u>Substantive costs</u>	
(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowances for six experts at three sessions	83 200
(ii) Six work-months of consultancy services and travel and daily subsistence allowances for two consultants at three sessions	54 200
(iii) Two work-months of temporary assistance	<u>7 000</u>
Total (b)	<u>144 400</u>

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F. Potential for absorption

13. It will be recalled that at its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, decided that the activities related to the preparation of disarmament studies mandated by the General Assembly should be treated as other "perennial" expenditures of the Organization, that is, they should not be classified as non-recurrent. A total recurrent amount of \$554,200 was thus appropriated for consultant services and ad hoc expert groups in connection with disarmament studies in 1990-1991.

14. On the basis of expenditures incurred for that purpose as of 31 October 1990, i.e. \$63,200 for consultants and \$401,600 for ad hoc expert groups, it is anticipated that the balance of the appropriations, i.e. \$89,400, will be required in its entirety for further activities in connection with disarmament studies, namely, the completion of a study on arms transfers mandated by the General Assembly at its forty-third session, which entails, inter alia, the holding of two 2-week sessions of an ad hoc group of experts in 1991. It is not anticipated that any unexpended appropriation would be available for the implementation of the draft resolution in 1991.

15. It is therefore estimated that the additional requirements outlined in section E above could not be absorbed from within the resources requested under section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

16. The estimates of conference-servicing costs indicated in paragraph 11 (a) above are established with the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent capacity of the Department of Conference Services. In accordance with the current budgetary practice, based on the assumption that conference activities and documentation during the biennium 1990-1991 would continue at approximately the same level as during the prior biennium, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49.

G. Indication of additional requirements

17. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, it is estimated that additional requirements of \$144,400 would arise under section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

H. Contingency fund

18. No provision is available in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to undertake the activities enumerated in section C above, for which it is estimated that an amount of \$144,400 would be required for 1991.

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19. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of the current session.

20. As indicated in paragraph 13 above, there is no possibility of redeploying resources within subprogramme 3, Studies on disarmament. A further review of the 1990-1991 work programme of the Department for Disarmament Affairs indicates that the resources attached to those programme elements which had been designated as of the lowest priority in the 1990-1991 programme budget, mostly in the area of the Training and Advisory Services Programme, are extremely modest. Termination of these elements would not release sufficient resources to cover the cost of implementing the draft resolution. Furthermore, the review of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997 ^{3/} points to high priority being given to assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues, which includes the Training and Advisory Services Programme. Accordingly, no activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 2B of the programme budget for 1990-1991 in order to undertake the study called for in draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the activities described in paragraphs 7 to 10 above would have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Conclusion

21. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, an additional appropriation of \$144,400 would be required under section 2B, Disarmament affairs activities, of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. In addition, an amount of \$1,600 would be required under section 31, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Corr.1); *ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1); and *ibid.*, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/43/6).

2/ *Ibid.*, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

3/ A/45/6.

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Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF THREE
SESSIONS OF THE GROUP OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS

	<u>First session</u> (New York, three days, 1991) \$	<u>Second session</u> (New York, one week, 1991) \$	<u>Third session</u> (New York, two weeks, 1991) \$
<u>Pre-session documentation</u>			
(20 pages, 2 documents: E)	-	2 000	-
<u>Post-session documentation</u>			
(80 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	<u>83 000</u>
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>2 000</u>	<u>83 000</u>