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Agenda items 107 and 60 (b)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

Transparency in armaments

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended

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

1. At its 37th meeting, on 15 November 1991, the First Committee adopted, by a recorded vote of 106 to 1, with 8 abstentions, draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.1/46/L.49.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms, to include data on international arms transfers as well as information provided by Member States on military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies as set out in operative paragraph 10 of the draft resolution and in accordance with procedures and input requirements initially comprising those set out in the annex to the resolution and subsequently incorporating any adjustments to the annex decided upon by the Assembly at its forty-seventh session in the light of the recommendations of the panel.

3. By operative paragraph 8, the General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a panel of governmental technical experts to be nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to elaborate the technical procedures and to make any adjustments to the annex to the resolution necessary for the effective operation of the Register and to prepare a report on the modalities for early expansion of the scope of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

4. By operative paragraph 11 (b), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, inter alia, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts convened in 1994, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development.

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

5. The above request is related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ and section 5, Disarmament, subprogramme 3, Monitoring, analysis and studies, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. 2/

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

6. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution as orally amended, the Secretary-General would establish and maintain at the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms. The Secretary-General would also establish a panel of governmental technical experts. In order to achieve appropriate geographical balance, the panel would be composed of 18 experts. The panel would hold three sessions in New York in 1992: a one-week session in January, a two-week session in March-April and a two-week session in July.

7. The Department for Disarmament Affairs would provide appropriate substantive support services to the panel. In addition, it is estimated that seven work-months of consultancy services and three work-months of temporary assistance of secretarial support services would be required to assist the panel in its work. The consultant would have extensive knowledge and expertise on defence-related technologies, arms transfer problems and transparency. The consultant would prepare the successive drafts of the panel's report, as well as attend the three sessions of the panel.

8. The Secretary-General would prepare a report to the General Assembly on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development with the assistance of a group of governmental experts convened in 1994.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work for 1992-1993

9. The activities called for by operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 11 (b) of the draft resolution as orally amended would go beyond the scope of activities programmed under subprogramme 3, activity 3 (ii) "Follow-up of recommendations for further work with respect to the study reports of ad hoc expert groups mandated by the General Assembly, including coordination with other organs/agencies of the United Nations system" of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Therefore it would be necessary to add the following citations under subprogramme 3 of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993:

(a) Under activity 1, Parliamentary services:

"(v) Panel of governmental technical experts on international arms transfers (three sessions in 1992)";

(b) Under activity 3, Coordination, harmonization and liaison:

"(iv) Establishing and maintaining a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms",

The programmatic aspects of the activities called for by operative paragraph 11 (b) of the draft resolution would be considered within the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

10. The requirements to undertake in 1992 the activities described in paragraphs 6 and 7 above are estimated as follows:

	\$
(a) <u>Conference-servicing costs</u> (see the annex to the present document for breakdown)	
(i) One-week session in New York (January)	49 400
(ii) Two-week session in New York (March-April)	122 500
(iii) Two-week session in New York (July)	<u>154 300</u>
Total (a)	<u>326 200</u>

\$

(b) Non-conference-servicing costs

(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 18 governmental technical experts at three sessions:		258 500
First session	- \$69 700	
Second session	- \$94 400	
Third session	- \$94 400	
(ii) Seven work-months of consultancy services		35 000
Consultant's travel and daily subsistence allowance for three sessions:		14 200
First session	- \$3 800	
Second session	- \$5 200	
Third session	- \$5 200	
(iii) Three work-months of temporary assistance		<u>10 800</u>
Total (b)		<u>318 500</u>
Total (a) and (b)		<u>644 700</u>

11. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, as orally amended, it is anticipated that the Register of Conventional Arms to be established at United Nations Headquarters in New York would become fully operational in 1993. Taking into account the volume of documentation anticipated to be received initially, it is estimated that the cost of related activities during that year could be absorbed by the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

12. With respect to the request contained in operative paragraph 11 (b) of the draft resolution, as orally amended, since the group of governmental experts would be convened in 1994, related programme budget implications would be considered in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

F. Potential for absorption

13. As regards the estimated conference-servicing costs in New York of the three sessions called for in the draft resolution and outlined in paragraph 6 above, these estimates, totalling \$326,200, are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 32 of

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the proposed programme budget and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the final calendar of conferences for 1992-1993 and was estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings that are programmed but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1992-1993 were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 should draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended, be adopted.

14. No provision has been made under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 for the holding of meetings of the panel referred to in paragraph 6 above. It is not anticipated that the cost of \$318,500 referred to in paragraph 10 (b) above could be absorbed from within the appropriations proposed under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

G. Indication of additional requirements

15. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended, it is estimated that additional requirements of \$318,500 would arise under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

H. Contingency fund

16. 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 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 available from the low-priority areas or modifications of existing 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 General Assembly towards the end of the current session.

17. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be

postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

I. Summary

18. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/46/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended it is estimated that additional appropriations of \$318,500 would be required under section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

Annex

ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE-SERVICING OF THREE SESSIONS
IN 1992 OF THE PANEL OF GOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS

	First session (New York, one week)	Second session (New York, two weeks)	Third session (New York, two weeks)
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>Meeting servicing</u>			
Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S	49 400	98 700	98 700
<u>In-session documentation</u>			
(20 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	23 800	-
<u>Post-session documentation</u>			
(70 pages, 3 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	55 600
Total	<u>49 400</u>	<u>122 500</u>	<u>154 300</u>
