



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 December 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session

Fifth Committee

Agenda items 117 and 71 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Oceans and the law of the sea

Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/61/L.30

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

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 22, 45, 91 and 120 of draft resolution A/61/L.30, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to convene the seventeenth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in New York on 14 and from 18 to 22 June 2007, bearing in mind that the current term of office of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf expires on 15 June 2007, and to provide the services required;

(b) Approve the convening by the Secretary-General of the nineteenth and twentieth session of the Commission in New York from 5 March to 13 April 2007 and from 20 August to 7 September 2007, respectively, on the understanding that the following periods will be used for the technical examination of submissions at the Geographic Information System laboratories and other technical facilities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs: 5 to 23 March 2007, 9 to 13 April 2007, 20 to 24 August 2007, and 4 to 7 September 2007;

(c) Take note of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and request the Secretary-General to reconvene, in accordance with paragraph 73 of resolution 59/24, and with full conference services, a meeting of the Working Group in 2008;



(d) Request the Secretary-General to convene the eighth meeting of the Consultative Process in New York from 25 to 29 June 2007 to provide it with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work and to arrange for support to be provided by the Division, in cooperation with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as appropriate.

II. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007

2. The activities referred to above relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007.¹ They fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for biennium 2006-2007.

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. The meetings of the States Parties to the Convention and the Consultative Process requested in operative paragraphs 22 and 120 of the draft resolution, respectively, have already been included in the calendar of meetings and conferences for 2007.

4. With regard to operative paragraph 45 of the draft resolution, the nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Commission, from 26 to 30 March 2007 and from 27 to 31 August 2007, respectively, have also been included in the calendar of meetings and conferences for 2007. However, the extension of the nineteenth session by four days, from 2 to 5 April 2007, would constitute an addition to the calendar and consist of eight additional meetings with simultaneous interpretation in all official languages.

5. It is envisaged that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group would meet, as requested in operative paragraph 91, for five days in New York in 2008, for a total of 10 meetings with interpretation services in all official languages and the required pre-session, in-session and post-session documentation in all languages.

IV. Additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007

6. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/61/L.30, no additional resources would be required for those meetings described above, which have already been included in the calendar of meetings and conferences for 2007.

7. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the four-day extension of the nineteenth session of the Commission, pursuant to operative paragraph 45 of the draft resolution, would amount to \$108,100 under section 2, General Assembly

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/59/6/Rev.1).*

and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$92,100), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services (\$16,000), of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

8. The requirements for servicing the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group in 2008 are estimated at \$264,300 under section 2, and \$20,100 under section 28D. These requirements would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

V. Potential for absorption

9. The extension of the nineteenth session of the Commission would constitute an addition to the calendar of meetings and conferences for 2007. Every effort would be made to meet the additional requirements described in paragraph 7 above within the current appropriation, and any additional requirement would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

VI. Summary

10. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/61/L.30, additional resources totalling \$108,100 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$92,100), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services (\$16,000), of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.**

11. **It is envisaged that the additional requirements would be accommodated from within the appropriation for sections 2 and 28D. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Should the actual requirements for implementing the provisions of the draft resolution exceed the absorptive capacity of the aforementioned sections, the additional requirements would be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.**