



## General Assembly

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Forty-second session  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 115 and 67

## PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN  
AS A ZONE OF PEACE: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE  
ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution  
contained in document A/42/29

Observations submitted by the Committee on Conferences  
pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A

1. In accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, by which the General Assembly decided that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the General Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications are **being considered** under the requirements of **rule** 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on Conferences **met** to review the conference-servicing implications of the draft **resolution** **contained** in document A/42/29.

2. Under **the terms** of operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution contained in document A/42/29, the General Assembly would:

(a) Renew **the** mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions and request the Committee to intensify its work with regard **to** the implementation of its **mandate**;

(b) Request the Ad Hoc Committee **to** hold three preparatory sessions in 1988, **each** of a duration **of** one week, one **session** of which could be held at Colombo in accordance with a decision to be taken by the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session in 1988;

(c) **Request** the Secretary-General to continue to render all **necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee**, including the **provision of** summary records, in recognition **of its preparatory function**, as well as verbatim transcripts for a possible **meeting** at Colombo.

3. The Committee **was** informed that it **was** the understanding of the Secretary-General that, should the **Ad Hoc Committee** decide to **accept** the offer of **the Government of Sri Lanka to hold** one session at Colombo, the host Government **would** defray the actual **additional costs** directly or indirectly involved in meeting **at Colombo rather than New York in accordance with the** provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution **40/243, section I.**

4. The Committee **was** also informed **that** a statement of the **related** programme budget implications **was** submitted to the First committee during its consideration **of this matter** in document A/C.1/42/L.80. A further statement **was submitted to the** Fifth Committee in document A/C.5/42/44.

5. The matter **was** brought to the attention of the Committee on Conferences **because** of the request of **the Ad Hoc Committee** for **verbatim** transcripts for **the** possible meeting at **Colombo**. Under the **terms** of General Assembly resolution 41/177 D, **the Ad Hoc Committee** is entitled to receive **summary** records. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 37/14 C, **the Assembly** decided **that** subsidiary organs **entitled to** written meeting records should receive them when meeting **away from** recognized United Nations **conference** centres only when there **was a specific decision by** the General Assembly **for each case**. Should **the Ad Hoc Committee** decide to hold one session at **Colombo**, therefore, the General Assembly would have to specifically **authorize** the **Ad Hoc Committee** to **receive** written meeting records **for that session** and explicitly decide that such records should **be in verbatim, rather than summary** form.

6. At the outset, the Secretariat explained the differences **between summary** and verbatim **records**, and it was made **clear that the Ad Hoc Committee** would require **official** verbatim records in all languages in respect of **its meeting** in Colombo, should it decide to go **there**. The Secretariat explained **further that** this would be a cost-saving **move**, in that only seven staff, that is, six verbatim monitors and a sound technician, would need to **be sent to Colombo** to help prepare the records in **advance**. The records could **then be** produced in full at Headquarters later **by** permanent staff.

7. In response to a question from a delegation, the Secretariat replied **that if the Ad Hoc Committee had requested** summary records to **be** produced on site during a proposed meeting, some 68 staff **members would have had to be sent, at correspondingly greater expense**. In response to another question, the Secretariat also stated that every effort **was** being made to **utilize effectively the resources** made available to the **Ad Hoc Committee**.

8. After a short discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that, in the event that the **Ad Hoc Committee** accepted the invitation from **the Government of Sri Lanka to meet in Colombo**, the difference in **the cost of** holding the **meeting** in Colombo as opposed to New York would be met by the

Government of Sri Lanka; and secondly, that the Ad Hoc Committee's request for official **meeting records** **Par its Colombo meeting**, should it decide to go **there**, **should** be granted on the understanding that these would be produced at Headquarters after the **session** by permanent staff as official **verbatim records** of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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