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FIFTH COMMITTEE  
Agenda items 114 and 139

## PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

## VERIFICATION IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.75

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

**A. Requests contained in the draft resolution**

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 18 November 1988, the First Committee adopted draft resolution **A/C.1/43/L.75** by a recorded vote of 130 to 1, with no abstentions. A statement of programme budget implication was before the Committee in document **A/C.1/43/L.81**.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution **A/C.1/43/L.75**, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to undertake, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, an in-depth study of the role of the United Nations in the field of verification which would:

(a) Identify and review existing activities of the United Nations in the field of verification of arms limitation and disarmament;

(b) Assess the need for improvements of existing activities as well as explore and identify possible additional activities, taking into account organisational, technical, operational, legal and financial aspects;

(c) Provide specific recommendations for future action by the United Nations in this context.

3. By operative paragraph 5, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the approved programme of work

4. The above requests are related to the activities referred to under:  
(a) 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, 1/ as proposed for revision; 2/ and  
(b) section 2B, Department for Disarmament Affairs, of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 3/ 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.

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General, in order to implement the operative paragraphs described above, would establish a group of qualified governmental experts. In order to achieve appropriate political and geographical balance, the Group would be comprised of up to 14 experts.

6. It is estimated that the Group would hold four sessions in New York in 1989 and 1990 as follows:

- (a) A one-week session in February 1989;
- (b) A two-week session in July 1989;
- (c) A two-week session in January/February 1990;
- (d) A two-week session in July 1990.

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

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

(b) Interpretation would be provided in the six official languages of the General Assembly;

(c) There would be a total of 300 pages of documentation (eight documents) to be issued in the six official languages, it being understood that the actual usage would depend on the composition of the Group.

8. The Secretary-General would authorize payment of travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for the experts participating in the sessions.

9. It is estimated that the Secretariat would require eight months of consultancy services in order to address the substantive, legal and technical issues involved. The primary consultant would have an extensive knowledge of the subject and would be able to present the facts and arguments in a clear and cogent written manner: he/she would be expected to prepare the successive drafts of the Group's report as work proceeded and to attend the sessions as necessary. Separately, the services of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in a consultant capacity would be obtained for the preparation of a paper on technical aspects for the attention of the group of experts.

10. It is envisaged that the staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York would provide the necessary substantive support services to the Group.

D. Modifications required in the approved programme of work

11. The activities of the proposal involving the permanent staff of the Department for Disarmament Affairs fall under programme element 3.2 of subprogramme 3 of section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. Accordingly, no modifications to that programme element are required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

12. The requirements to undertake the activities contained in paragraphs 5 to 10 above are as follows:

(a) Conference-servicing costs (see annex for breakdown) arising from the session of the Group of Qualified Governmental Experts:

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
	\$	\$
(i) One-week session in New York in early 1989	51 200	-
(ii) Two-week session in New York in mid-1989	144 200	
(iii) Two-week session in New York in early 1990		150 600
(iv) <del>Two-week</del> session in New York in mid-1990		339 400
Total (a)	<u>195 400</u>	<u>490 000</u>

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
	\$	\$
<b>(b) Substantive costs:</b>		
<b>(i) Travel and daily subsistence allowance for 14 governmental experts for a one- and a two-week session in New York in 1989 and two two-week sessions in New York in 1990</b>	115 200	134 000
<b>(ii) Eight work-months of consultancy services to present facts and arguments and prepare successive drafts of the Group's report as the work proceeds and travel and daily subsistence allowance for attendance at the sessions of the expert group in New York in both 1989 and 1990. Of this total, \$15,000 (\$10,000 in 1989 and \$5,000 in 1990) would be allocated to UNIDIR for the preparation of a paper on technical aspects</b>	<u>32 100</u>	<u>23 800</u>
<b>Total (L)</b>	<u>147 300</u>	<u>157 800</u>

#### F. Potential for absorption

13. No programme element under any subprogramme within section 2B, Department for Disarmament Affairs, of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 is proposed for curtailment, postponement or termination to offset the additional costs that would result from the adoption of the draft resolution.

14. With regard to the estimates of conference-servicing costs indicated in paragraph 12 (a) above, these cost estimates are based on 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 and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the permanent capacity of the Department would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1989. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the programme budget, 4/ the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings were estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditure for the period 1982-1986 and included in the Secretary-General's initial estimates. In other words, provision was made in the 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 this biennium is consistent with the pattern experienced over the past five years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.1/43/L.75.

G. Resuest for additional aooroariation

15. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution **A/C.1/43/L.75**, it is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$147,300 would be required under section 2B of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989. The 1990 requirements of \$157,800 would be dealt with within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and thus would be reflected in the budget outline for that biennium.

**Notes**

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

**2/** A/43/6.

**3/** A/42/6 (sect, **2B**).

**4/** A/42/6 (sect. 29).

AnnrxESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE SERVICING OF FOUR SESSIONS OF THE GROUP  
OF QUALIFIED GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS

	<u>First session</u> (New York, one week) 1989	<u>Second session</u> (New York, two weeks) 1989	<u>Third session</u> (New York, two weeks) 1990	<u>Fourth session</u> (New York, two weeks) 1990
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Pre-session documentation</u>				
(40 pages of 3 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)		41 800		
(40 pages of 3 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	-	-	43 500	
(120 pages of 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)				126 700
<u>Meeting servicing</u>				
(Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	45 400	90 800	94 900	94 900
<u>Post-session documentation</u>				
(100 pages of 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)			-	105 600
<u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	<u>5 800</u>	<u>11 600</u>	<u>12 200</u>	<u>12 200</u>
Total	<u>51 200</u>	<u>141 200</u>	<u>150 600</u>	<u>339 400</u>

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