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QUESTION OF A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Administrative and programme budget implications of the
draft resolution contained in document E/CN.4/1988/L.86

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance
with rule 28 of the rules of procedure of the functional
commissions of the Economic and Social Council

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council under draft resolution E/CN.4/1988/L.86, the Council would authorize within existing resources, a meeting of the open-ended working group for a period of up to two weeks in November-December 1988 with a view to completing the second reading of the draft convention on the rights of the child at that session.

B. Relationship of proposed request to programme of work

2. The activities referred to above would fall under chapter 6, section II, "Programme: Centre for Human Rights", subprogramme 4, "Standard-setting, research and studies", the objective of and the strategy for which are described in paragraphs 6.38 and 6.40 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (A/37/6).

3. The following programme element of section 23 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 would be directly affected by the activities referred to in draft resolution:

Programme element 4.1 - Standard-setting

Output: (ii) Substantive servicing of the professional working group of the Commission on Human Rights engaged in drafting a convention on the rights of the child.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. In order to determine the financial implications of the decision, it has been noted that the travel expenses of the members concerned would be covered under the normal provision for the attendance of members of the Commission.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work

5. No modifications are required in the programme of work proposed for 1988-1989 since the activity appears under programme element 4.1.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

6. Conference servicing costs to be financed under section 29 B (Conference Services Division, Geneva), calculated on a full cost basis, are estimated at \$166,400 for 1988.

F. Potential for absorption

7. In accordance with established practice, the above-mentioned conference servicing requirements were calculated on a full-cost basis for information purposes. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.6 of the programme budget (A/42/6), the 1988-1989 requirements under temporary assistance for meetings have been estimated on the basis of a five-year average of appropriations and actual expenditures for the period 1982-1986, and included in the Secretary-General's estimates. In other words, provision has been made in the programme budget not only for the 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 appropriation would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution by the Commission on Human Rights.