

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52, entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52, the General Assembly would:

"(a) Reaffirm the decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012;

(b) Endorse the recommendations contained in Chapter IV, "Organizational and procedural matters: report of Contact Group 1 on the review of the preparatory process, including organizational and procedural matters, leading up to the UNCSO in 2012", and annex II of document A/CONF.216/PC/5; and

(c) Request the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process and of the Conference and to ensure inter-agency cooperation, effective United Nations system participation and coherence as well as the efficient use of resources, to address all the objectives and themes of the Conference".

Activities by which the proposals will be implemented and additional requirements for the biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013

3. It is recalled that by resolution 64/236, the General Assembly has made a decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 in Brazil. The Secretary-General submitted a statement of programme budget implications on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59 before its adoption (see A/C.2/64/L.74), in which the Secretary-General requested additional resources amounting to \$516,100 after the absorption of \$460,400 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to cover the costs to service the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee held in 2010, and the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee, to be held in 2011. The Secretary-General also indicated in the statement that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, both to be held in 2012 in Brazil, would be included in the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-2013 as soon as the dates and modalities were determined. The related resource requirements for the Conference and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, if the dates and modalities

were formally decided and known before the time of preparing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Otherwise, the required resources would be dealt with in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, once the dates and modalities were formally decided. The Secretary-General's request of additional resources amounting to \$516,100 was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/236.

4. It is further noted that the dates of the Conference to be held in 2012 have yet to be determined. Accordingly, the requirements for meetings services, documentation services and other conference support services of the Conference are still unknown. The Secretary-General will submit the requirements for servicing the Conference through established procedures once the General Assembly decides on the modalities of the Conference.

5. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 19 and 20 of the draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52, recommendation (h) contained in annex II of document A/CONF.216/PC/5 to be endorsed by the General Assembly reads as follows: "Called upon the secretariat and relevant United Nations organizations, in consultation with the Bureau, to organize within existing resources, open-ended informal intersessional meetings for a total duration of not more than six days, including one two-day meeting, to be held between the release of the synthesis requested above and the second session of the Preparatory Committee, and two two-day meetings between the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee, the final intersessional meeting taking place no later than eight weeks prior to the third session of the Preparatory Committee. The objective of these meetings would be to hold focused, substantive discussions to advance the subject matter of the Conference".

6. The first and second open-ended informal intersessional meetings contained in recommendation (h) above will be held in January 2011 and November 2011 respectively. These meetings have not been included in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2011. Accordingly, additional resources amounting to \$208,200 under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 would be required to service the first and second intersessional meetings, including \$182,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for meeting services requirements consisting of eight meetings in total with interpretation services from and into all six official languages (\$90,000) and documentation services requirements (\$92,200) for one pre-session document totaling 15,000 words to be translated into all six official languages, and requirements of \$26,000 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, for other conference support services. These requirements are reflected in table 1 of this statement.

7. As the second intersessional meeting is scheduled tentatively in November 2011, which coincides with the main part of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, an exception to meet during that period of time in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243 will be needed if draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52 is adopted.

8. As regards the third and final open-ended informal intersessional meeting contained in recommendation (h) to be held in March 2012, this meeting would be included in the draft biennial calendar of conferences

and meetings for 2012-2013 and resources amounting to \$58,000 would be considered within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, including \$45,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for meeting services consisting of four meetings in total with interpretation services from and into six official languages and requirements of \$13,000 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, for other conference support services. These requirements are reflected in table 2 of this statement.

9. It shall also be noted that the requirements for documentation services for the third and final open-ended informal intersessional meeting are still unknown at the present time. Consequently, the Secretary-General will submit the requirements for documentation requirements through established procedures once these requirements are decided by the General Assembly.

10. With regard to operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52, the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee have been included in the biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2010-2011. Consequently, provisions have been made under sections 2 and 28D of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the related conference services and other conference support services.

11. As regards the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee to be held in 2012, as indicated in the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.59, this would be included in the biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-2013. It is envisaged that the requirements for servicing the third preparatory meeting would amount to \$87,000, including \$67,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for meeting services consisting of six meetings in total with interpretation services from and into six official languages and requirements of \$19,500 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, for other conference support services. These requirements would be considered within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. It shall also be noted that the requirements for documentation services for the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee are still unknown at the present time. Consequently, the Secretary-General will submit the requirements for documentation requirements in accordance with established procedures once these requirements are decided by the General Assembly. (Refer to table 2 below).

12. To summarize, the total conference-related costs under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 are shown in table 1 and table 2 respectively.

Table 1
Additional resource requirements arising from the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52,
for the biennium 2010-2011*

(United States dollars)

<i>Type of support</i>	<i>First intersessional meeting</i>	<i>Second intersessional meeting</i>	<i>Total additional resource requirements</i>
Meeting services	45 000	45 000	90 000
Documentation services	92 200	-	92 200
Other conference support services	13 000	13 000	26 000
Total	150 200	58 000	208 200

* See paragraph 6 above for a more detailed description of the requirements

Table 2
Additional resource requirements arising from the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52,
for the biennium 2012-2013

(United States dollars)

<i>Type of support</i>	<i>Third intersessional meeting¹</i>	<i>Third meeting of the Preparatory Committee²</i>	<i>Conference on Sustainable Development³</i>	<i>Total additional resource requirements</i>
Meeting services	45 000	67 500	To be determined	112 500
Documentation services	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined
Other conference support services	13 000	19 500	To be determined	32 500
Total	58 000	87 000	To be determined	145 000

1. See paragraph 8 above for a detailed description of meeting services requirements and the requirements documentation services are yet to be determined.
2. See paragraph 11 above for a detailed description of meeting services requirements and the requirements documentation services are yet to be determined.
3. See paragraph 4 above for a detailed description of the Conference which has modality to be determined.

13. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee should be held in New York, the established headquarters of the body. However, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the same resolution, United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved. Accordingly, the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee in 2012 requires that

the Government of Brazil reimburse to the United Nations the actual additional costs directly or indirectly incurred as a result of the change in venue of the Conference and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee from New York to a location in Brazil.

14. Attention is drawn also to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The attention of the Second Committee is also drawn to paragraph 67 of the first report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7), in which the Committee noted that the use of the phrase "within existing resources" or similar language in resolutions had a negative impact on the implementation of activities; therefore, efforts should be made to avoid the use of this phrase in resolutions and decisions.

Potential for absorption

15. The Secretariat has sought to identify areas from which resources could be redeployed to meet the additional requirements of \$208,200 relating to the conference services and other conference support services for the biennium 2010-2011 as referred to in table 1. It is considered that the requirements for meeting services (\$90,000) and other related conference support services (\$26,000) could be accommodated by using resources allotted for servicing the General Assembly, provided that the Assembly does not meet in parallel at the same time and the requirements for documentation services (\$92,200) would be absorbed through redeployment achievable by using contractual translation to the most feasible extent possible, instead of in-house translation, for processing the pre-session document.

Conclusion

16. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.52, no additional requirements would arise for the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 as a result of the proposed absorption.

17. The requirements currently known as related to the third intersessional meeting and the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, totaling \$145,000, including \$112,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management and \$32,500 under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, will be dealt with in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, while, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243, the Government of Brazil will defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved.

18. The requirements related to servicing the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would be reported by the Secretary-General through established procedures, once the dates and modalities of the Conference are decided by the General Assembly.