

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/CN.9/140
10 May 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

28645

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
Tenth session
Vienna, 23 May 1977

POSSIBLE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO CONCLUDE A CONVENTION
ON THE INTERNATIONAL SALE OF GOODS: FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its eighth session which was held in January 1977 the UNCITRAL Working Group on the International Sale of Goods requested the Secretariat to prepare a statement of financial implications for a possible diplomatic conference on the international sale of goods (A/CN.9/128, para. 171) and to present this statement to the tenth session of UNCITRAL scheduled for 23 May to 17 June 1977.

2. The request made encompasses the following four alternatives:

(a) A diplomatic conference dealing solely with a draft convention on the international sale of goods.

(b) A diplomatic conference dealing with two separate draft conventions. The first on the international sale of goods and the second on the formation of contracts for the international sale of goods.

(c) A diplomatic conference dealing with three separate draft conventions. The first on the international sale of goods, the second on the formation of contracts for the international sale of goods and the third on the validity of contracts for the international sale of goods.

(d) A diplomatic conference dealing with one draft convention, either on the formation of contracts for the international sale of goods or on the validity of contracts for the international sale of goods.

3. It is estimated that the implementation of the proposal indicated in the preceding paragraph would have the following financial implications:

First alternative: a conference dealing solely with a draft convention on the international sale of goods, \$1,201,900

4. It is assumed that two meetings a day would be held for the first week, four meetings a day for the second and third weeks and three meetings a day for the fourth week. The cost of servicing such meetings in six languages would be as follows:

A. Pre-session documentation (estimated at 500 pages), \$176,000

	\$
(i) Translation	84,700
(ii) Revision	45,100
(iii) Typing	25,100
(iv) Reproduction and distribution	21,200

B. In-session, \$397,200

(i) Interpretation	182,600
(ii) Translation (400 pages)	89,000
(iii) Revision	46,700
(iv) Typing	33,500
(v) Conference officer and documents clerks	2,600
(vi) Telecommunication engineering and security personnel	32,200
(vii) Reproduction and distribution of documents	10,600

C. Summary records

(i) Translation	198,400
(ii) Revision	48,000
(iii) Typing	95,700
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	67,200

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D. Post-session documentation (500 pages), \$219,400

	\$
(i) Translation	84,700
(ii) Revision	45,150
(iii) Typing	25,000
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	64,500

Second alternative: a conference dealing with two separate draft conventions, \$1,686,900

5. The estimate is based on the assumption that the Conference would hold four meetings a day for the first week, six meetings a day for the second week and four meetings a day for the third and fourth weeks. The cost of servicing such meetings in six languages would be as follows:

A. Pre-session documentation (estimated at 700 pages), \$244,800

	\$
(i) Translation	118,600
(ii) Revision	63,200
(iii) Typing	33,400
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	29,600

B. In-session, \$557,100

(i) Interpretation	253,500
(ii) Translation (600 pages)	133,500
(iii) Revision	70,100
(iv) Typing	51,000
(v) Conference officer and documents staff	3,400
(vi) Telecommunication engineering and security personnel	31,500
(vii) Reproduction and distribution of documents	14,100

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C. Summary records, \$579,700

	\$
(i) Translation	281,000
(ii) Revision	67,900
(iii) Typing	137,800
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	93,000

C. Post-session documentation, \$305,300

(i) Translation	118,600
(ii) Revision	63,200
(iii) Typing	33,400
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	90,100

Third alternative: a conference dealing with three separate draft conventions, \$1,839,200

6. It is assumed that the conference would hold four meetings per day for the first week, six meetings per day for the second week and four meetings per day for the third and fourth weeks. The estimated cost for such meetings in six languages would be as follows:

A. Pre-session documentation (estimated at 700 pages), \$285,200

	\$
(i) Translation	135,500
(ii) Revision	72,200
(iii) Typing	43,600
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	33,900

B. In-session, \$647,200

(i) Interpretation	291,800
(ii) Translation	156,800
(iii) Revision	84,200

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\$

(iv) Typing	58,500
(v) Conference officer and documents clerk	3,400
(vi) Telecommunication engineering and security personnel	36,200
(vii) Reproduction and distribution of documents	16,300

C. Summary records, \$672,200

(i) Translation	325,000
(ii) Revision	78,700
(iii) Typing	155,100
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	113,400

D. Post-session documentation, \$354,600

(i) Translation	135,500
(ii) Revision	72,300
(iii) Typing	43,600
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	103,200

Fourth alternative: a conference dealing with one draft convention, \$817,300

7. It is assumed that the conference would hold three meetings a day for the first week and four meetings a day for the second week. The estimated cost of such meetings would be as follows:

A. Pre-session documentation (250 pages), \$78,600

\$

(i) Translation	42,400
(ii) Revision	22,600
(iii) Typing	13,600
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	10,600

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B. In-session, \$348,200

	\$
(i) Interpretation	149,800
(ii) Translation	68,900
(iii) Revision	36,400
(iv) Typing	42,600
(v) Conference officers and documents clerks	15,000
(vi) Telecommunication engineering and security personnel	29,600
(vii) Reproduction and distribution of documents	5,900

C. Summary records, \$270,900

	\$
(i) Translation	132,300
(ii) Revision	31,700
(iii) Typing	70,600
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	36,300

D. Post-session documentation (275 pages), \$119,600

	\$
(i) Translation	46,600
(ii) Revision	24,700
(iii) Typing	12,600
(iv) Reproduction and distribution of documents	35,700

8. The costs indicated above are based on the 1977 rates and on the assumption that no existing resources would be available for the conference. As the exact schedule of the conference is yet to be decided, it is not possible at this stage to determine to what extent such conference servicing costs would be met by then existing resources. The Secretary-General intends to revise the estimates at a future date when further details of the conference are known more precisely.
