



Finance Committee

Distr.: General
25 July 2003

Original: English

Ninth session

Kingston, Jamaica
28 July -8 August 2003

Modalities to defray the cost of participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission and Finance Committee from Developing Countries

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its eighth session, the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority requested the Secretary-General to establish, as an interim measure, a voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission from developing countries and members of the Finance Committee from developing countries in the meetings of the Commission and of the Committee.
2. In response to the Secretary-General's request to member States to contribute to the trust fund, three separate contributions were received, totalling US\$ 10,500. The Authority has established a separate account for the fund.
3. At its eighth session, the Assembly also decided that the Finance Committee should review the question of modalities for financing participation in the meetings of the Commission and the Committee, including the possibility of making provision from the administrative budget of the Authority.
4. The contributions to the voluntary trust fund received to date have been very small. The members of the Commission and the Committee, although nominated by States Parties, are elected in their individual capacity. It is therefore necessary to ensure that the members of those bodies participate in their meetings and maintain continuity of their functions during their term of appointment. It has been noticed that some of the members of the Commission and the Committee have been unable to attend the meetings in view of financial constraints related to the costs of their travel and subsistence. The estimated costs for participation of members from developing countries are indicated in the annex, which compares the costs of air travel by economy and business class, and also indicates the costs of daily subsistence allowance as applicable for Kingston. It will be noticed that, on average, annual contributions of between US\$ 120,000 and US\$ 215,000 would be required, depending upon the number of persons, the class of travel and duration of meetings.

5. In order to provide guidance to the Committee in setting up the modalities for funding, a brief survey was undertaken of the existing practice in some international organizations. The most relevant instance of establishment of a trust fund to defray the costs of travel and subsistence for participation in meetings is a voluntary trust fund established by the General Assembly in 2000 for the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from developing States. That fund is currently operational and the available resources are modest. The procedure established by the United Nations indicates that requests by Governments of Commission members should be sent well in advance, within a specified time. The request would be dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis. Economy class tickets by the most direct route would be issued, and the daily subsistence allowance would be at the United Nations rate. All arrangements for ticketing would be undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat.

6. Although a voluntary trust fund on an interim basis has already been established, the contributions to that fund have been small and slow in coming. The Committee may therefore wish, in addition to the voluntary contributions to the trust, to consider the following options so as to facilitate funding:

(a) The apportionment of a certain sum of money from the interest accrued in the general administrative fund of the Authority;

(b) The apportionment of a specified amount, annually, from the unused portion, if any, of the budget of the previous year;

(c) The apportionment of a specified amount from the interest of the pioneer investor fund.

7. The Committee may also wish to recommend that such a fund be administered by the secretariat of the Authority, in accordance with the administrative rules and procedures, and that a report be submitted to the Committee.

Annex

Indicative costs for assistance to members of the Legal and Technical Commission from developing countries to attend meetings of the Commission and of the Finance Committee

(United States dollars)

Member	Airfare		Terminal costs	DSA in Kingston		DSA in transit	Total 7 days	Total 14 days	Total 7 days	Total 14 days
	Economy	Business		7 days =(8 days DSA)	14 days =(15 days DSA)		Economy class	Business class		
Legal and Technical Commission										
Indonesia (NY)	624	945	168	1 888	3 540	0	2 680	4 332	3 001	4 653
Lebanon	2 751	5 386	168	1 888	3 540	600	5 407	7 059	8 042	9 694
Pakistan	3 710	4 712	168	1 888	3 540	600	6 366	8 018	7 368	9 020
Argentina	1 345	5 078	168	1 888	3 540	600	4 001	5 653	7 734	9 386
Cameroon	5 610	8 014	168	1 888	3 540	300	7 966	9 618	10 370	12 022
Mexico	670	2 197	168	1 888	3 540	0	2 726	4 378	4 253	5 905
Brazil	1 236	5 757	168	1 888	3 540	300	3 592	5 244	8 113	9 765
Senegal	4 212	6 017	168	1 888	3 540	300	6 568	8 220	8 373	10 025
Mozambique	3 345	4 764	168	1 888	3 540	600	6 001	7 653	7 420	9 072
Egypt (NY)	624	945	168	1 888	3 540	0	2 680	4 332	3 001	4 653
Republic of Korea	2 292	5 032	168	1 888	3 540	600	4 948	6 600	7 688	9 340
India	3 926	4 967	168	1 888	3 540	0	5 982	7 634	7 023	8 675
Fiji	3 669	5 241	168	1 888	3 540	600	6 325	7 977	7 897	9 549
Chile	1 305	5 649	168	1 888	3 540	600	3 961	5 613	8 305	9 957
China	1 953	6 105	168	1 888	3 540	600	4 609	6 261	8 761	10 413
Namibia	3 345	4 764	168	1 888	3 540	600	6 001	7 653	7 420	9 072
Subtotal	40 618	75 575	2 688	30 208	56 640	6 300	79 814	106 246	114 771	141 203
Finance Committee										
Indonesia	3 564	6 428	168	1 888	3 540	0	5 620	7 272	8 484	10 136
Myanmar	4 545	8 128	168	1 888	3 540	600	7 201	8 853	10 784	12 436
China	1 305	6 105	168	1 888	3 540	600	3 961	5 613	8 761	10 413
Uganda	2 448	5 947	168	1 888	3 540	600	5 104	6 756	8 603	10 255
Lebanon	2 751	5 386	168	1 888	3 540	600	5 407	7 059	8 042	9 694
Jamaica										

<i>Member</i>	<i>Airfare</i>		<i>Terminal costs</i>	<i>DSA in Kingston</i>		<i>DSA in transit</i>	<i>Total 7 days</i>	<i>Total 14 days</i>	<i>Total 7 days</i>	<i>Total 14 days</i>
	<i>Economy</i>	<i>Business</i>		<i>7 days =(8 days DSA)</i>	<i>14 days =(15 days DSA)</i>		<i>Economy class</i>		<i>Business class</i>	
India (NY)	624	945	168	1 888	3 540	0	2 680	4 332	3 001	4 653
Nigeria	5 610	8 014	168	1 888	3 540	300	7 966	9 618	10 370	12 022
Subtotal	20 848	40 954	1 176	13 216	24 780	2 700	37 940	49 504	58 046	69 610
Grand total	61 466	116 528	3 864	43 424	81 420	9 000	117 754	155 750	172 816	210 812

Note: The figures presented above suggest that the fund would need between US\$ 120,000 and US\$ 215,000 (rounded up) to finance one meeting for the Commission and one for the Committee each year.