Submission No 19



International Organisations Branch

5 August 2002

Grant Harrison Secretary Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Harrison

Please find following DFAT's responses to the Questions on Notice arising from the JSCFADT hearing on the *Review of Australia's Relations with the United Nations*, held 2 July, 2002.

As requested, we have also enclosed an edited transcript of the proceedings.

The Questions on Notice that arose were as follows.

1. How many major UN conferences have been held in the last 10 years?

Answer:

See Attachment A which lists 34 conferences held since 1992. It does not include the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development or regular UN meetings such as the United Nations General Assembly.

2. How much was spent on agricultural subsidies around the world in the last financial year?

Answer:

In 2001 OECD farmers received support and protection totalling \$US 311 billion. As the OECD includes the United States, Japan and the countries of the European Union, this figure includes the vast majority of agricultural subsidies.

3. What was global defence expenditure in the last financial year?

Answer:

In 2001 the US based Centre for Defence Information calculated annual global defence expenditure at \$US 746.8 billion. This amount is an aggregation of the latest available figures for national defence budgets for 2000. Actual expenditures were used in a few cases where official budgets were significantly lower than actual spending.

4. Which Australian embassies have significant UN responsibilities?

Answer:

Please see Attachment B.

5. What are the yearly expenses of Australia's UN missions in New York, Geneva and Vienna?

Answer:

Please see Attachment C.

6. Has there been any development in the work of High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations?

Answer:

The High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations was established pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 48/143 of 23 December 1994. On 16 September 1996 the Working Group tabled a report (A/50/43) in the General Assembly which concluded that it had not been possible for the Group to agree upon any concrete measure for ameliorating the financial situation of the United Nations. The Working Group continued working for another year (decision 50/488) after which, still unable to agree on any recommendations, it ceased deliberation.

One other development in UN financing was the Secretary-General's preparation in 1997 of a report titled 'New and Innovative Ideas for Generating Funds' (E/1997/85). The report was requested by ECOSOC and, while it led to some debate at the time, it has not so far been taken forward.

7. Please provide a breakdown of Member States' contributions to the UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets.

Answer:

Please see Attachment D (Scale of Assessment for the UN regular budget) and Attachment E (Member State contributions to the peacekeeping budget).

8. Which states are in arrears to the United Nations?

Answer:

Please see Attachment F.

Yours sincerely

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Rod Smith Assistant Secretary International Organisations Branch

Year Conference 2002 World Food Summit: Five Years Later (Rome, 10-13 June) General Assembly Special Session on Children (New York, 8-10 May) Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 8-12 April) International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 18-22 March) 2001 Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban treaty (New York, 11-13 November) World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Durban, 31 August - 7 September) United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 9-20 July) HIV/AIDS - General Assembly Special Session (New York, 25-27 June) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - General Assembly Special Session (New York, 6-8 June) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Brussels, 14-20 May) 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 12-15 December) Millennium Summit (New York, 6-8 September) World Summit for Social Development and Beyond - General Assembly Special Session (Geneva, 26-30 June) Beijing +5 Review - General Assembly Special Session (New York, 5-9 June) Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (Vienna, 10-17 April) Tenth Session of the Conference on Trade and Development (Bangkok, 12-19 February) 1999 Small Island Developing States - General Assembly Special Session (New York, 27-28 September) Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful

MAJOR UN CONFERENCES

	Uses of Outer Space
	(Vienna, 19-30 July)
	International Conference on Population and Development
	[ICPD+5] - General Assembly Special Session
	(New York, 30 June - 2 July)
1998	
	World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth
	(Lisbon, 8-12 August)
	Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court
	(Rome, 15 June-17 July)
	World Drug Problem – General Assembly Special Session
	(New York, 8-10 June)
1997	
1777	Earth Summit+5
	(New York, 23-27 June)
1996	(New Tork, 25-27 June)
1990	Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements
	(Istanbul, 3-14 June)
1995	(Istanoul, 5-14 June)
1995	Fourth World Conference on Women
	그는 것 같은 것 같
	(Beijing, September)
	World Summit for Social Development
	(Copenhagen, 6-12 March)
	Conference on Straddling & Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
1004	(New York, 24 July – 4 August)
1994	GI I I G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G
	Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island
	Developing States
	(Barbados, 25 April - 6 May)
	International Conference on Population and Development
	(Cairo, 15-13 September)
	World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction
	(Yokohama, 23-27 May)
	World Summit on Trade Efficiency
	(Ohio, USA, 17-21 October)
1993	
	World Conference on Human Rights
	(Vienna, 14-25 June)
1992	
	Environment: UN Conference on Environment and Development
	(Rio, 3-14 June)

POSTS WITH SIGNIFICANT UN RESPONSIBILITIES

Post	Key UN responsibilities
New York	 Prime responsibility for managing Australia's relationship with the UN. Responsibility for relationships with the key UN organs (General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Secretariat). Peacekeeping issues. Major Australian candidacies.
Geneva	 Responsibility for relationships with UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Indigenous issues. Responsibility for a number of key UN specialised agencies including; World Health Organisation (WHO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Responsibility for relationships with key humanitarian agencies.
Vienna	 International action on drugs control and crime prevention. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. International economic legal framework. Responsibility for relationship with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other disarmament and arms control issues.
Paris	• Responsibility for relationship with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
Rome	• Food security issues including liaison with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP).
Bangkok	• Responsibility for relationship with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP).
Nairobi	• Responsibility for relationship with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).
The Hague	• Responsibility for various legal tribunals including; International Court of Justice (ICJ), International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTFY) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).
London	International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

Post	Expenditure Items	2001/02 Actual expenditure
	LES, Administration, property	\$11,316,695
New York	A based salaries	\$2,030,082
	Capital	\$238,463
	Total	\$13, 585, 240
	LES, Administration, property	\$5,802,386
Geneva	A based salaries	\$1,748,989
	Capital	\$248,758
	Total	\$7, 800, 133
	LES, Administration, property	\$3,562,440
Vienna	A based salaries	\$929,769
	Capital	\$249,267
	Total	\$4, 741, 476

YEARLY EXPENSES OF AUSTRALIA'S MISSIONS TO THE UN

Notes:

- A- For Geneva and New York it is not possible to totally disaggregate expenditures between the Consul-General operations and the UN Mission. For example, all property charges in New York are allocated to the Consul-General. Likewise, the mission in Vienna undertakes bilateral work with Austria and is accredited to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- B- LES (locally engaged staff), Administration and property expenditures includes overtime payments for Australian based DFAT officers.

UNITED NATIONS	REGULAR BUDGET –
SCALE OF	ASSESSMENT

Member State	Scale 2001	Scale 2002	Scale 2003
		Percentage	
Afghanistan	0.008	0.007	0.00900
Albania	0.003	0.003	0.00300
Algeria	0.070	0.071	0.07000
Andorra	0.004	0.004	0.00400
Angola	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Argentina	1.156	1.159	1.14900
Armenia	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Australia	1.636	1.640	1.62700
Austria	0.952	0.954	0.94700
Azerbaijan	0.004	0.004	0.00400
Bahamas	0.012	0.012	0.01200
Bahrain	0.018	0.018	0.01800
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	0.01000
Barbados	0.009	0.009	0.00900
Belarus	0.019	0.019	0.01900
Belgium	1.136	1.138	1.12900
Belize	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Benin	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Bolivia	0.008	0.008	0.00800
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.004	0.004	0.00400
Botswana	0.010	0.010	0.01000
Brazil	2.231	2.093	2.39000
Brunei Darussalam	0.033	0.033	0.03300
Bulgaria	0.013	0.013	0.01300
Burkina Faso	0.002	0.002	0.00200
	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Cambodia	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Cameroon	0.009	0.009	0.00900
Canada	2.573	2.579	2.55800
Cape Verde	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Chad	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Chile	0.198	0.187	0.21200
China	1.541	1.545	1.53200
Colombia	0.186	0.171	0.20100
Comoros	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Congo	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Costa Rica	0.020	0.020	0.02000
Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.009	0.00900
Croatia	0.039	0.039	0.03900

	Percentage		
Cuba	0.030	0.030	0.03000
Cyprus	0.038	0.038	0.0380
Czech Republic	0.189	0.172	0.2030
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.009	0.009	0.0090
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.004	0.004	0.0040
Denmark	0.753	0.755	0.7490
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Dominica	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Dominican Republic	0.023	0.023	0.0230
Ecuador	0.025	0.025	0.0250
Egypt	0.081	0.081	0.0810
El Salvador	0.018	0.018	0.0180
Equatorial Guinea	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Estonia	0.010	0.010	0.0100
Ethiopia	0.004	0.004	0.0040
Fiji	0.004	0.004	0.0040
Finland	0.525	0.526	0.5220
Finland	6.503	6.516	6.4660
	0.014	0.014	0.0140
Gabon	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Gambia	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Georgia	9.825	9.845	9.7690
Germany	0.005	0.005	0.0050
Ghana	0.003	0.543	0.5390
Greece			0.0010
Grenada	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Guatemala	0.027	0.027	0.0270
Guinea	0.003	0.003	
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Guyana	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Haiti	0.002	0.002	0.0020
Honduras	0.005	0.004	0.0050
Hungary	0.121	0.121	0.1200
Iceland	0.033	0.033	0.0330
India	0.343	0.344	0.3410
Indonesia	0.201	0.201	0.2000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.253	0.236	0.2720
Iraq	0.127	0.102	0.1360
Ireland	0.296	0.297	0.2940
Israel	0.417	0.418	0.4150
Italy	5.094	5.104	5.064
Jamaica	0.004	0.004	0.0040
Japan	19.629	19.669	19.515
Jordan	0.008	0.008	0.008

Member State	Scale 2001	Scale 2002	Scale 2003
		Percentage	
Kenya	0.008	0.008	0.00800
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Kuwait	0.148	0.148	0.14700
Kyrgyzstan	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Latvia	0.010	0.010	0.01000
Lebanon	0.012	0.012	0.0120
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Liberia	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.067	0.067	0.0670
Liechtenstein	0.006	0.006	0.0060
Lithuania	0.017	0.017	0.0170
Luxembourg	0.080	0.080	0.0800
Madagascar	0.003	0.003	0.0030
Malawi	0.002	0.002	0.0020
Malaysia	0.237	0.237	0.2350
Maldives	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Mali	0.002	0.002	0.0020
Malta	0.015	0.015	0.0150
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Mauritania	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Mauritius	0.011	0.011	0.0110
Mauntus	1.093	1.095	1.0860
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Monaco	0.001	0.001	0.0040
	0.004	0.001	0.0010
Mongolia	0.045	0.001	0.0440
Morocco	0.045	0.045	0.0010
Mozambique	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Myanmar		0.010	0.0070
Namibia	0.007	0.007	0.0010
Nauru	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Nepal	0.004		1.7380
Netherlands	1.748	1.751	0.2410
New Zealand	0.242	0.243	
Nicaragua	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Niger	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Nigeria	0.062	0.056	0.0680
Norway	0.650	0.652	0.6460
Oman	0.062	0.062	0.0610
Pakistan	0.061	0.061	0.0610
Palau	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Panama	0.018	0.018	0.0180
Papua New Guinea	0.006	0.006	0.0060
Paraguay	0.016	0.016	0.0160

Member State	Scale 2001	Scale 2002	Scale 2003
	Percentage		
Philippines	0.101	0.101	0.10000
Poland	0.353	0.319	0.37800
Portugal	0.465	0.466	0.46200
Qatar	0.034	0.034	0.03400
Republic of Korea	1.728	1.866	1.85100
Republic of Moldova	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Romania	0.059	0.059	0.05800
Russian Federation	1.200	1.200	1.20000
Rwanda	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Samoa	0.001	0.001	0.00100
San Marino	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Saudi Arabia	0.557	0.559	0.55400
Senegal	0.005	0.005	0.00500
Seychelles	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Singapore	0.395	0.396	0.39300
Slovakia	0.043	0.043	0.04300
Slovenia	0.081	0.081	0.08100
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Somalia	0.001	0.001	0.0010
South Africa	0.410	0.411	0.40800
Spain	2.534	2.539	2.5187
Sri Lanka	0.016	0.016	0.0160
Sudan	0.006	0.006	0.0060
Suriname	0.002	0.002	0.0020
Swaziland	0.002	0.002	0.0020
Sweden	1.033	1.035	1.0267
Syrian Arab Republic	0.081	0.081	0.0800
Tajikistan	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Thailand	0.275	0.254	0.2940
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.006	0.006	0.0060
Тодо	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Tonga	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Trinidad and Tobago	0.016	0.016	0.0160
Tunisia	0.031	0.031	0.0300
Turkey	0.443	0.444	0.4400
Turkmenistan	0.003	0.003	0.0030
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	0.0010
Uganda	0.005	0.005	0.0050
Ukraine	0.053	0.053	0.0530
United Arab Emirates	0.204	0.204	0.2020

Member State	Scale 2001	Scale 2002	Scale 2003
		Percentage	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.568	5.579	5.53600
United Republic of Tanzania	0.004	0.004	0.00400
United States of America	22.000	22.000	22.00000
Uruguay	0.075	0.081	0.08000
Uzbekistan	0.011	0.011	0.01100
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	0.00100
Venezuela	0.210	0.210	0.20800
Viet Nam	0.015	0.013	0.01600
Yemen	0.007	0.007	0.00600
Yugoslavia	0.020	0.020	0.02000
Zambia	0.002	0.002	0.00200
Zimbabwe	0.008	0.008	0.00800
Total	100.000	100.000	100.00000

UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING BUDGET

There are two UN budgets: the regular budget and the peacekeeping budget. Each Member State's contribution to the regular budget is denoted as a percentage of the total budget and tabled according to a scale of assessments. As you are aware, the regular budget scale of assessments has been renegotiated and the methodology will remain fixed until at least 2006. (See Attachment D for the current scale.)

The peacekeeping budget scale of assessments is based on the regular budget scale of assessments. However this scale is modified to accommodate two factors. First, permanent members of the Security Council have special responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security. Second, economically less developed countries have a lower capacity to financially contribute to peacekeeping. These principles have been codified as follows.

Any country which has a Per Capita Gross National Product (PCGNP) which is *more than twice the average* Per Capita Gross National Product of all UN Member States, pays the same percentage of the peacekeeping budget as they pay of the UN regular budget. This includes Australia and in 2002 we pay 1.64% of both budgets.

Less developed countries have a *discounted* percentage contribution: the poorer the country, the greater the discount. For example, Bangladesh has a PCGNP which is less than the average PCGNP of all Member States and therefore receives an 80% discount. As Bangladesh's regular budget contribution is 0.01%, its peacekeeping contribution is therefore 0.01% minus the 80% discount. Therefore Bangladesh pays 0.002% of the peacekeeping budget.

After all the less developed countries discounted percentage contributions have been calculated, the permanent members of the Security Council pay the remainder of the peacekeeping budget - in other words, permanent members of the Security Council pay the discounts the less developed countries receive. After all the discounts have been calculated, the permanent members of the Security Council divide the remainder of the peacekeeping budget according to a formula agreed among themselves.

This process makes it difficult to arrive at a peacekeeping scale of assessments. Unlike the regular budget scale of assessment, the peacekeeping scale of assessment will be unpredictably fluid, depending on the average PCGNP of Member States and each individual state's PCGNP. As, in the foreseeable future, it is unlikely that Australia's PCGNP will ever be less than twice the average PCGNP of Member States, Australia's contribution to the peacekeeping budget will remain the same as our contribution to the UN regular budget (1.64% in 2002, 1.627% in 2003 and thereafter).

The scale of discounts, and a list of countries currently allocated to each scale, follows below. Further details can be found in the resolution (A/RES/55/235) at http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/55/a55r235.pdf

Peacekeeping budget - scale levels

(based on average per capita gross national product (PCGNP) of all Member States)

Level	Threshold	Thresholds in United States dollars (2001- 2003)	Target discount (Percentage)
Α	Permanent members of the Security Council		Premium
в	All Member States (except level A contributors)	N/A	0
С	N/A	N/A	7.5
D	Below 2X average PCGNP of all Member States (except level A contributors)	Under 9 594	20
Е	Below 1.8X average PCGNP of all Member States (except level A contributors)	Under 8 634	40
F	Below 1.6X average PCGNP of all Member States (except level A contributors)	Under 7 675	60
G	Below 1.4X average PCGNP of all Member States (except level A contributors)	Under 6 715	70
Н	Below 1.2X average PCGNP of all Member States (except level A contributors)	Under 5 756	80 (or 70 on a voluntary basis)
Ι	Below average PCGNP of all Member States	Under 4 797	80
J	Least developed countries (except level A contributors)		90

Assignment of contribution levels for 2001-2003

Level A

Permanent members of the Security Council: China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Level B

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden

Level C

Brunei Darussalam, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates

Level D

Bahamas, Republic of Korea

Level E

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Malta, Slovenia

Level F Argentina, Barbados, Seychelles

Level G Oman, Palau, Saudi Arabia

Level H Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay

Level I

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

Level J

The least developed countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali,

Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia

STATES WHICH ARE IN ARREARS TO THE UN

As of 6 May 2002, the following 21 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter:

1. Afghanistan	12. Liberia
2. Burundi*	13. Mauritania
3. Central African Republic	14. Niger
4. Chad	15. Republic of Moldova*
5. Comoros*	16. Sao Tome and Principe
6. Democratic Republic of the Congo	17. Seychelles
7. Dominica	18. Somalia
8. Georgia*	19. Tajikistan
9. Guinea-Bissau	20. Uzbekistan
10. Iraq	21.Vanuatu
11. Kyrgyzstan	

*By its decision 55/473 C of 25 July 2001, the General Assembly decided that Burundi, the Comoros, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova would be permitted to vote in the Assembly until 30 June 2002.