

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT  
RESOLUTION A/C.2/71/L.53, ENTITLED "Combating sand and dust  
storms"

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

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.53, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and *decide* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Combating sand and dust storms", unless otherwise agreed.

3. It is anticipated that the request contained in operative paragraph 9 will constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one pre-session document of 8,500 words to be issued in all six languages. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$37,600 for documentation services in 2018.

4. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.53, the additional resource requirements of \$37,600 which would arise for 2018 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, will be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.