



# General Assembly

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### Proposed programme budget for 2022

#### Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session

## Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session

### Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.6/76/L.10](#)

#### Twenty-third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2022

### I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/76/20](#)), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.6/76/L.10](#) regarding the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 2 December 2021.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 15 of draft resolution [A/C.6/76/L.10](#), the General Assembly would decide to allocate one additional one-week session per year for a single period of four years from 2022 to 2025 and additional support to the Commission to allow its Working Group III to continue to implement its work with respect to investor-State dispute settlement reform, on the condition that the Commission would during its annual session re-evaluate and, if needed, revisit its decision concerning the need for allocating an additional one-week session to Working Group III and related support based on its annual report on the use of its resources.



## II. Resource requirements

### *Overall estimated requirements for the period from 2022 to 2025*

3. As summarized in table 3 of the statement of the Secretary-General, the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution would require additional resource requirements in the amount of \$3,183,700 for the four-year period from 2022 to 2025. Tables 1 and 2 in the statement contain information relating to requirements for conference-servicing (\$1,427,200) and non-conference-servicing (\$1,386,500) for the period. The resource requirements for the period from 2023–2025 would be reflected in the proposed programme budgets for the respective budget period ([A/C.5/76/20](#), paras. 9 and 12).

### *Proposed resource requirements for 2022*

4. Pursuant to the requests contained in the draft resolution, additional resource requirements for 2022, in an amount of \$656,200, would arise for section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$356,800), and section 8, Legal affairs (\$226,400), as follows:

(a) Conference-servicing:

- (i) Interpretation services (\$83,000) in all six official languages for five working days (10 meetings) in Vienna;
- (ii) Documentation services (\$273,800) for the translation of seven pre-session documents with a total word count of 59,500 words, five in-session documents with a total word count of 10,700 words and one post-session document with a word count of 10,700 words, in all six official languages;

(b) Non-conference-servicing requirements:

- (i) Post resources (\$207,600) for the establishment of three temporary posts, comprising one Legal Officer (P-3), one Associate Legal Officer (P-2) and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) to provide secretariat services to Working Group III. The envisaged responsibilities of each post are outlined in paragraph 6 of the statement (see also para. 5 below).
- (ii) Non-post resources (\$18,800) relating to contractual services, supplies and materials as well as furniture and equipment for the three temporary posts.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed temporary posts would support both the annual additional one-week session of the Working Group and the preparation for and servicing of 77 days of informal meetings of the Working Group during the period 2022–2025. Regarding concerns expressed about an excessive number of informal meetings and the related burden on certain delegations, reflected, inter alia, in the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its fifty-fourth session ([A/76/17](#), para. 259), the Committee was informed that 25 days of informal meetings had taken place in 2021, with the remaining 52 to be held from 2022 to mid-2026 (an average of 11 days per year). Further, in order to increase participation and inclusivity, the informal meetings would be held mainly online or in a hybrid format, thus limiting their time frame to 2 to 3 hours per day. The Committee was also informed that a total of 7 staff resources were presently allocated to support Working Group III, although not exclusively, as follows: 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (Other level) funded from the regular budget; as well as 1 P-2 Junior Professional Officer, ending in May 2022, and 1 P-2 temporary extrabudgetary post, which was established in 2021 to support the 25 days of informal meetings and would expire at the end of 2021. **Taking into account the existing capacity, the Advisory Committee recommends**

against the establishment of the temporary posts of Legal Officer (P-3) and Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)). Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.

6. In the statement, the Secretary-General indicates that no provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2022 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution, and that at this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2022 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2022 ([A/C.5/76/20](#), para. 14).

### III. Conclusion

7. Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 5 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution [A/C.6/76/L.10](#):

(a) Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$432,300 for 2022 would arise under the proposed programme budget for 2022, including \$356,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and \$75,500 under section 8, Legal affairs. The amount of \$432,300 would require an additional appropriation for 2022 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund;

(b) The General Assembly would be requested to approve the establishment of a temporary Associate Legal Officer (P-2) post under section 8, Legal affairs;

(c) An amount of \$7,300 would also be required for appropriation under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

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