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Proposed programme budget for 2024

Proposed programme budget for 2024

Part II

Political affairs

Section 3

Political affairs

Special political missions

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General

Third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2024

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2024 for thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 9 August 2023.

2. The Secretary-General, in addendum 1 to section 3, Political affairs, of his report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2024 for 39 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Detailed information in respect of each special political mission is contained in five addenda to section 3 of the proposed programme budget.¹ The addenda cover the specific requirements for missions

* [A/78/150](#).

¹ [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#) and [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#).



presented in thematic clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq.

3. The resource requirements of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar (cluster I), whose mandate emanates from the General Assembly, are included in the report of the Secretary-General under cluster I in order to consolidate the overall resource requirements for all special political missions, while the mandate of the Office will be brought to the attention of the Assembly, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

4. The Advisory Committee addresses issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to special political missions in its main report ([A/78/7/Add.1](#)), while its specific comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq are presented in separate related reports.²

II. Budget performance for 2022 and 2023 and resource requirements for 2024

5. The proposed resource requirements for 2024 for the 10 special political missions under thematic cluster I, compared with the approved resources for 2023 and the expenditures for 2022, are summarized in table 1.

Table 1
Summary of resource requirements for thematic cluster I

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Mission	2022		2023		2024	Variance	
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	January–June expenditure	Requirement	Amount	Percentage
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)	(7)=(6)/(3)
1. Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	2 955.0	2 523.5	3 036.3	1 446.0	3 079.1	42.8	1.4
2. Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	2 698.3	2 393.6	2 816.4	1 439.4	2 819.3	2.9	0.1
3. Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	476.5	267.9	475.2	174.4	567.8	92.6	19.5
4. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	338.6	393.4	372.2	195.7	420.1	47.9	12.9
5. Office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	2 045.0	1 745.4	1 950.0	895.8	2 059.1	109.1	5.6
6. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	16 132.6	12 630.3	15 001.6	7 080.9	14 200.6	(801.0)	(5.3)
7. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa	1 763.6	1 586.1	1 754.5	750.9	1 654.6	(99.9)	(5.7)

² [A/78/7/Add.2](#), [A/78/7/Add.3](#), [A/78/7/Add.4](#), [A/78/7/Add.5](#) and [A/78/7/Add.6](#).

Mission	2022		2023		2024	Variance	
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	January–June expenditure	Requirement	Amount	Percentage
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)	(7)=(6)/(3)
8. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	5 133.9	4 406.1	5 737.9	2 425.8	4 984.1	(753.8)	(13.1)
9. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen	17 202.0	16 240.6	17 051.3	8 362.4	16 708.3	(343.0)	(2.0)
10. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar	1 153.5	1 223.8	1 408.6	616.2	1 380.3	(28.3)	(2.0)
Total	49 899.0	43 410.7	49 604.0	23 387.5	47 873.3	(1 730.7)	(3.5)

6. The proposed resources for 2024 amount to \$47,873,300 (net of staff assessment), representing a decrease of \$1,730,700, or 3.5 per cent, compared with the 2023 appropriation. A summary of variances between approved resources for 2023 and proposed resources for 2024 for continuing missions is provided in table 6 of the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)).

7. As shown in table 1, the overall expenditures for 2022 amounted to \$43,410,700, reflecting an underexpenditure of \$6,488,300, or 13.0 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$49,899,000. The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar were the only missions with an overexpenditure of \$54,800 and \$70,300, respectively. Expenditures as at 30 June 2023 amounted to \$23,387,500 against an appropriation of \$49,604,000. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on expenditures for 2023 to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

A. Comments and recommendations on staffing requirements

8. Overall, the Secretary-General proposes 280 positions for 2024 for the 10 missions grouped under thematic cluster I, representing a net increase of 1 position compared with the 279 positions approved for 2023. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a table presenting positions approved for 2023 and proposed staffing requirements for 2024 (see table 2). Staffing changes are also summarized in annex XX to the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)).

Table 2
Thematic cluster I: staffing requirements

Mission	Approved for 2023	Vacant as at 30 June 2023	Proposed for 2024	New positions	Abolishment	Conversion	Reclassification	Reassignment	Redeployment/relocation
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus	21 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 1 P-3, 4 FS, 1 GS (OL) and 5 LL)	3 (1 USG, 1 P-5 and 1 LL)	21 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 1 P-3, 4 FS, 1 GS (OL) and 5 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide	13 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 P-5, 4 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS (OL))	—	15 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 P-5, 4 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS (OL), 2 NUNV)	2 NUNV	—	—	—	—	—
Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	2 (1 USG and 1 P-3)	—	2 (1 USG and 1 P-3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4 and 1 GS (OL))	1 USG	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4 and 1 GS (OL))	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions	7 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 GS (OL))	—	7 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 GS (OL))	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	88 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 8 P-5, 14 P-4, 11 P-3, 10 FS, 8 GS (OL) and 31 LL)	24 (3 P-5, 7 P-4, 4 P-3, 5 FS, 4 GS (OL) and 1 LL)	87 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 8 P-5, 13 P-4, 10 P-3, 8 FS, 8 GS (OL), 1 NPO and 33 LL)	1 P-5	1 P-5, 1 P-4	3 (1 P-3 to NPO, 2 FS to 2 LL)	—	—	—
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa	9 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 NPO and 2 LL)	2 (1 P-4, 1 LL)	9 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 NPO and 2 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	1 P-4 from Addis Ababa to Khartoum
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	30 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 5 P-5, 7 P-4, 5 P-3, 1 FS, 1 GS (OL), 1 NPO and 7 LL)	6 (1 D-2, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 NPO and 1 LL)	30 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 5 P-5, 7 P-4, 5 P-3, 1 FS, 1 GS (OL), 1 NPO and 7 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Approved for 2023</i>	<i>Vacant as at 30 June 2023</i>	<i>Proposed for 2024</i>	<i>New positions</i>	<i>Abolishment</i>	<i>Conversion</i>	<i>Reclassification</i>	<i>Reassignment</i>	<i>Redeployment/relocation</i>
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen	101 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 15 P-4, 10 P-3, 24 FS, 1 GS (OL), 14 NPO and 28 LL)	22 (2 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 6 FS, 1 GS (OL), 6 NPO and 3 LL)	101 (1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 15 P-4, 10 P-3, 24 FS, 1 GS (OL), 14 NPO and 28 LL)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar	5 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 LL)	2 (1 USG and 1 LL)	5 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 LL)	–	–	–	–	–	–

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS, General Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; NUNV, National United Nations Volunteer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

9. The Secretary-General proposes staffing changes for three missions, comprising the following:

(a) In the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the establishment of two positions of Political Affairs Officer (National United Nations Volunteer) (see para. 10 below);

(b) In the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, the establishment of one position of Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) (see para. 10 below); the abolishment of one position of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) (see para. 10 below) and one position of Military Adviser (P-4), as well as the conversion of one position of Political Affairs Officer (P-3) to Associate Political Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer), one position of Human Resources Assistant (Field Service) to Human Resources Assistant (Local level) and one position of Security Officer (Field Service) to Field Security Assistant (Local level) (see [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), para. 158; see also para. 13 below);

(c) In the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, the redeployment of one position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Addis Ababa to Khartoum (see para. 12 below).

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

10. The Secretary-General proposes to establish two positions of Political Affairs Officer (National United Nations Volunteer), one in Addis Ababa and one in Bangkok, in the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), para. 62). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that these positions would be scaled up and would enable the sustainability of awareness-raising and educational initiatives begun in 2020 on the prevention of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, with partners in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. In addition, the two positions would play a key liaison role in enhancing the Office's cooperation with stakeholders in the respective regions, in particular regional organizations, governments and civil society. **While the Advisory Committee has no objection to this proposal, in view of the envisaged functions of regional engagement of the proposed positions, it sees a need for the incumbents to have appropriate regional expertise.**

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

11. It is proposed to establish a position of Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) in the Political Affairs Office of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria in Geneva, in conjunction with the abolishment of a position of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) in the Damascus Office (*ibid.*, para. 158 (a)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the P-5 position in Damascus had been vacant since July 2019 (see para. 13 below). The incumbent of the proposed position in Geneva would provide support and expert advice to the Special Envoy and would work on the release of arbitrarily detained persons, including by liaising at the senior level and coordinating with the Syrian parties, relevant United Nations offices and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The incumbent would also represent the Office of the Working Group on the release of detainees/abductees, the handover of bodies and the identification of missing persons. The Committee was further informed that the envisaged functions of the proposed position were the same as those performed by the incumbent of an existing position of Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) in Geneva funded through extrabudgetary resources. The Committee notes that extrabudgetary resources for the Office for 2024 are projected in the amount of \$279,000, reflecting an increase of \$6,500 compared with the estimated resources for 2023 (see annex II below). Furthermore, the Committee notes that the position would be established in the Political Affairs Office in Geneva, which currently comprises 15 positions funded through the regular budget, including one D-1, three P-5 and five P-4 (see [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), annex II, sect. F). **Taking into account the existing capacity funded through extrabudgetary resources in the Office, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the position of Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) in Geneva.**

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa

12. The Secretary-General proposes the redeployment of one position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Addis Ababa to Khartoum in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa to closely monitor developments in the Sudan and engage with the Special Envoy for South Sudan of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as key partners and other United Nations entities based in Khartoum and Abyei (*ibid.*, para. 185). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the only other member of the Office based in Khartoum was one Political Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) who had been relocated to Egypt following the escalation of the conflict in the Sudan. Furthermore, the redeployment of the Political Affairs Officer (P-4) would be subject to the evolution of the situation on the ground. **In view of the evolving situation on the ground, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed redeployment of the position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Addis Ababa to Khartoum at this stage.** The Committee discusses related matters in its report on the budget proposal for the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan under thematic cluster III ([A/78/7/Add.4](#)).

Vacant positions

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 June 2023, there were 30 positions (2 Under-Secretary-General, 3 P-5, 6 P-4, 5 P-3, 4 Field Service, 5 National Professional Officer, 3 General Service and 2 Local level) under thematic cluster I that had been vacant for one year or more, including 19 positions (2 Under-Secretary-General, 2 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 Field Service, 3 National Professional Officer, 3 General Service and 1 Local level) vacant for over two years. The Committee notes that 13 of the positions vacant for more than two years were in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and included

7 positions in the Damascus Office, of which 2 were proposed for nationalization and 2 for abolishment. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the vacant positions, including long-vacant ones, will be filled expeditiously and that an update on the recruitment status of all vacant positions will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission. The Committee also trusts that the Secretary-General will propose appropriate budgetary actions in the next budget submission for any long-vacant positions that have not been recruited.** The Committee further discusses positions vacant for 24 months or longer in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/78/7/Add.1](#)).

14. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 11 and 12 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

15. The proposed resources for operational costs under thematic cluster I for 2024 amount to \$14,573,700, reflecting a decrease of \$742,300, or 4.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the operational costs for thematic cluster I, including the 2022 and 2023 expenditure and the proposed requirements for 2024, as shown in table 3.

Table 3
Thematic cluster I: operational costs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2022		2023		2024		Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure (as at 30 June)	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	2024 budget vs. 2023 appropriation
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
Operational costs							
Consultants and consulting services	271.0	144.1	243.4	55.5	249.3	–	5.9
Official travel	2 813.0	2 105.1	2 560.9	1 621.0	2 595.6	–	34.7
Facilities and infrastructure	7 096.8	4 946.7	6 672.6	4 023.3	6 108.2	–	(564.4)
Ground transportation	836.7	456.5	775.4	330.2	778.1	–	2.7
Air operations	1 144.3	1 620.2	1 328.6	597.6	1 242.3	–	(86.3)
Communications and information technology	1 447.6	1 470.8	1 492.7	895.6	1 489.6	–	(3.1)
Medical	330.7	291.5	325.8	123.8	231.2	–	(94.6)
Other supplies, services and equipment	1 988.4	1 110.4	1 916.6	442.6	1 879.4	–	(37.2)
Total	15 928.5	12 145.3	15 316.0	8 089.6	14 573.7	–	(742.3)

Consultants and consulting services

16. The proposed requirements for consultants and consulting services in the amount of \$249,300, reflecting an increase of \$5,900, or 2.4 per cent, would complement, with targeted technical expertise, the in-house capacity of six missions under cluster I, namely the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on

Cyprus, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, the Office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region. **Emphasizing that the use of consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and considering the level of expenditure in 2022 and in the first six months of 2023, the Advisory Committee recommends the following:**

(a) A reduction of 15 per cent in respect of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus (\$4,300), the Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara (\$3,100), the Office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (\$1,500) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (\$19,200);

(b) A reduction of 10 per cent in respect of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide (\$3,600).

Official travel

17. Proposed requirements in the amount of \$2,595,600, reflecting an increase of \$34,700, or 1.4 per cent, compared with the 2023 appropriation, would provide for non-training travel (\$2,349,800) and travel for training (\$245,800). **The Advisory Committee trusts that further efforts will be made to maximize the use of virtual meetings, online platforms and remote training tools, whenever possible. Additionally, considering the level of expenditure in 2022 and in the first six months of 2023, the Committee recommends the following:**

(a) A reduction of 15 per cent in respect of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1559 \(2004\)](#) (\$5,900) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (\$145,500);

(b) A reduction of 10 per cent in respect of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus (\$10,000), the Office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (\$21,000), the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (\$10,300) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar (\$15,000).

Facilities and infrastructure

18. Proposed requirements under facilities and infrastructure amount to \$6,108,200, reflecting a decrease of \$564,400, or 8.5 per cent, owing mainly to lower requirements for rental of premises and security services for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (a decrease of \$853,400). The proposed resources include a provision of \$3,014,900 for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, which reflects an increase of \$317,900, or 11.8 per cent. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase relates mainly to higher costs for the rental of premises for the new office in Amman (\$307,600), representing an increase of 173 per cent compared with the cost of \$112,500 for the existing premises, and the office in Sana'a (\$64,400), representing an increase of 34 per cent compared with the current cost of \$48,200, new accessibility and electricity supply projects, increased fuel prices and the monthly cost of unarmed security guards. The Office's expenditure for 2022 amounted to \$2,373,200 against an appropriation of \$2,786,100. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further efficiencies will be found and, also taking into account the level of expenditure in 2022, recommends a reduction of 30 per cent (\$95,400) of the proposed increase (\$317,900) under facilities and infrastructure for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for**

Yemen. The Committee also trusts that an update on the lease of premises of the Office will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of the consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission.

Ground transportation

19. Requirements under ground transportation are proposed in an amount of \$778,100, reflecting an increase of \$2,700, or 0.3 per cent, compared with the 2023 appropriation. Expenditures for 2022 amounted to \$456,500 against an appropriation of \$836,700, and expenditure as at 30 June 2023 amounted to \$330,200 against an appropriation of \$775,400. **Taking into account the level of expenditure in 2022 and in the first six months of 2023, the Advisory Committee recommends the following:**

(a) **A reduction of 15 per cent to the proposed resources for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (\$6,300) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (\$42,100);**

(b) **A reduction of 5 per cent for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (\$18,300).**

Other supplies, services and equipment

20. The proposed requirements for other supplies, services and equipment in the amount of \$1,879,400, reflecting a decrease of \$37,200, or 1.9 per cent, compared with the 2023 appropriation, would include a provision of \$1,121,400 for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria. Expenditures for 2022 for the cluster amounted to \$1,110,400 against an appropriation of \$1,988,400, and expenditure as at 30 June 2023 amounted to \$442,600 against an appropriation of \$1,916,600. **Taking into account the level of expenditure in 2022 and in the first six months of 2023, as well as the budgeted amounts, the Advisory Committee recommends:**

(a) **A reduction of 20 per cent in respect of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (\$224,300);**

(b) **A reduction of 10 per cent in respect of the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus (\$8,300), the Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara (\$2,900) and the Office of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (\$4,500).**

21. **Subject to its comments and recommendations in paragraphs 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.**

III. Other matters

Hate speech

22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in 2019, the Secretary-General had launched the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and designated the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide as the global focal point to implement the Strategy. In this capacity, the Office supports United Nations field presences, including resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, to develop context-specific action plans on countering and addressing hate speech, in line with

the Strategy. Moreover, the Office provides capacity-building and technical assistance support to governments, regional organizations, the media and civil society. This work has increased since the launch of the Strategy and is expected to grow further. The Office also chairs the Working Group on Hate Speech, which was set up to coordinate the efforts of 17 entities, including the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, which, inter alia, provides technical advice on monitoring and analysis tools to address hate speech, disinformation and misinformation, and the Department of Global Communications, which supports amplification of outreach related to work to implement the Strategy. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide, in the next budget submission, a full accounting of the resources dedicated to hate speech across the United Nations, along with a description of the respective areas of responsibility, as well as cooperation mechanisms among different entities.** The Committee discusses related matters in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/78/7/Add.1](#)) and under sections 3 and 28 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/7](#)).

Cooperation with the resident coordinator system

23. It is stated in the report of the Secretary-General that the special political missions grouped under thematic cluster I continue to coordinate activities and cooperate with the resident coordinator offices (annex I). According to the Secretariat, one example of good practice has been the strategic review of the Peace Support Facility conducted by the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, which represents a major partnership between the Mission, the Resident Coordinator Office and the United Nations Development Programme. The finalization of the strategic review was under way, and it was expected that decisions on the implementation of the recommendations would start by the second quarter of 2023 (*ibid.*). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria maintains close collaboration with the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syrian Arab Republic for the purpose of promoting coherent activities and synergies, in line with the United Nations plans and priorities for the political process in accordance with Security Council resolution [2254 \(2015\)](#). The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa works closely with the Resident Coordinators in the Horn of Africa region, in particular in the context of the comprehensive regional prevention strategy, and with respect to peace and security challenges. For example, the Office worked extensively with the Resident Coordinator Office in Ethiopia in support of the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed in Pretoria in November 2022. Similarly, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region works closely with the resident coordinators in the countries of the region, including in the context of the implementation of the United Nations Strategy for Peace Consolidation, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution in the Great Lakes Region.

Cost-sharing arrangements

24. Information on cost-sharing agreements for missions under cluster I are summarized in annex I to the present report. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the cost-sharing arrangements for 2024 of the integrated mission support functions of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement, as summarized in table 4. Rental of premises and other services, such as security, are cost-shared between the two missions according to ratios that are reviewed annually on the basis of the headcount at each duty station.

The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on cost-sharing arrangements will be included in all future budget submissions.

Table 4

Operational costs shared between the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

<i>Budget item</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Total proposed cost 2024</i>	<i>United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement proposed budget 2024</i>	<i>United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement cost-sharing (percentage)</i>	<i>Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary- General for Yemen proposed budget 2024</i>	<i>Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary- General for Yemen cost-sharing (percentage)</i>
Rental of premises: office (new)	Amman	409.6	102.0	25	307.6	75
Rental of premises: office	Sana'a	96.0	31.5	33	64.5	67
Rental of premises: office parking	Sana'a	24.6	8.1	33	16.5	67
Rental of premises: accommodations (existing)	Aden	84.0	27.6	33	56.4	67
Rental of premises: office (new)	Aden	120.0	39.6	33	80.4	67
Utilities and waste disposal services	Amman	18.0	7.2	25	55.8	75
Utilities and waste disposal services	Sana'a	64.3	24.5	33	6.4	67
Utilities and waste disposal services	Aden	3.6	1.2	33	22.4	67
Maintenance services	Amman	110.4	27.6	25	82.8	75
Maintenance services	Sana'a	85.2	28.1	33	57.1	67
Maintenance services	Aden	158.4	52.3	33	106.2	67
Security services: unarmed guards, office	Amman	205.2	51.3	25	153.9	75
Security services: unarmed guards, office	Sana'a	285.6	115.3	33	170.3	67
Security services: unarmed guards, compound	Aden	428.4	141.4	33	287.0	67
Alteration and renovation (10 per cent of rent)	Amman	41.0	10.3	25	30.7	75
Alteration and renovation (10 per cent of rent)	Sana'a	32.1	10.6	33	21.5	67
Alteration and renovation (10 per cent of rent)	Aden	40.4	13.3	33	27.1	67
Petrol, oil and lubricants	Amman	35.9	9.0	25	26.9	75
Petrol, oil and lubricants	Sana'a	37.6	11.4	33	26.2	67
Petrol, oil and lubricants	Aden	139.8	45.6	33	94.2	67
Internet access provisioning service, leased line primary (Damamax)	Amman	9.6	2.4	25	7.2	75
Internet access provisioning service, leased line backup (orange)	Amman	6.0	1.5	25	4.5	75
United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement: Internet access provisioning service, leased line, primary (33 per cent)	Sana'a	48.1	15.9	33	32.2	67
Internet access provisioning service, leased line (EasyLink)	Aden	22.8	7.5	33	15.3	67
Internet access provisioning service, satellite backup	Sana'a	96.0	31.7	33	64.3	67
Internet access provisioning service for additional bandwidth	Sana'a and Aden	13.8	4.6	33	9.2	67
Internet access provisioning service, leased line backup	Aden	22.8	7.5	33	15.3	67
Total		2 639.2	828.9		1 841.9	

Extrabudgetary resources

25. Information on estimated extrabudgetary resources for 2023 and 2024 for missions under thematic cluster I is summarized in annex II to the present report. The information provided indicates that: (a) while the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen estimate receiving extrabudgetary funding in 2023, no extrabudgetary contributions are currently projected for 2024; (b) decreased extrabudgetary contributions compared with the 2023 estimates are expected for the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar; (c) extrabudgetary contributions are anticipated at the same level as 2023 for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa; and (d) slightly higher extrabudgetary resources compared with the estimate for 2023 are expected for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria. **The Advisory Committee trusts that special political missions under cluster I will take into consideration lessons learned and best practices for proven fundraising strategies, including those of other United Nations entities, with a view to strengthening their efforts to obtain sufficient, predictable and sustained levels of voluntary contributions, including unearmarked funding, as necessary. The Committee looks forward to an update thereon in the next budget submission.**

Equitable geographical representation and gender balance

26. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 June 2023, of the 219 staff encumbering positions funded through the regular budget, 96 were from Asia-Pacific States, 52 from Western European and other States, 48 from African States, 17 from Eastern European States, 5 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 1 from other. In addition, as at the same date, of the 219 staff, 82 were women and 137 were men. **The Advisory Committee trusts that efforts will be intensified to achieve a more equitable geographical representation of Member States and gender balance among the staff of the special political missions under thematic cluster I and that an update will be provided in future programme budget submissions.** The Committee further discusses equitable geographical representation and gender balance in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/78/7/Add.1](#)) and chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/7](#)).

Annex I

Cost-sharing arrangements for special political missions under cluster I

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Areas of cost-sharing arrangements</i>	<i>Cost-shared with entities</i>	<i>Reasons for cost-sharing</i>	<i>Amount in mission's 2024 budget for cost-sharing</i>
Cluster I				
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria	Cost-sharing arrangements with United Nations country team on local security budget and World Health Organization clinics	United Nations Development Programme and United Nations country team	Security in the country is managed and provided by the Department of Safety and Security. The World Health Organization provides medical services to country team.	130.8
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa	Contribution to the United Nations Health Care Centre for joint medical services, based on the number of staff in accordance with the memorandum of understanding, and security services	Economic Commission for Africa	Cost-efficiency	3.8
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region	The Mission's budget includes its portion of common services under the locational support services provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi in accordance with the service-level agreement	United Nations Office at Nairobi	Cost-efficiency	94.0
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen	Cost-sharing arrangement with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for the rental and operational cost of one fixed-wing aircraft, with a share of 20 per cent	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	Cost-efficiency and operational synergies	721.7
	Cost-sharing arrangement with United Nations country team for the local security cost-shared budget of the Department of Safety and Security for Jordan and Yemen	United Nations Development Programme and United Nations country team	Cost-efficiency and operational synergies	117.5
	Cost-sharing arrangement with United Nations country team for joint medical clinics in Yemen	United Nations Development Programme and United Nations country team	Cost-efficiency and operational synergies	171.0
	Cost-sharing arrangement with United Nations country team for accommodation in Sana'a	United Nations Development Programme and United Nations country team	Cost-efficiency and operational synergies	863.6
	Cost-sharing arrangement with United Nations country team for recreation facility in Aden	World Health Organization and United Nations country team	Cost-efficiency and operational synergies	36.0

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Areas of cost-sharing arrangements</i>	<i>Cost-shared with entities</i>	<i>Reasons for cost-sharing</i>	<i>Amount in mission's 2024 budget for cost-sharing</i>
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar	The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific provides overall administrative services on a cost-recovery basis, with additional support from the United Nations Development Programme for any services on the ground in Myanmar or while on mission to other countries, including security, local transportation, ground coordination and customs clearance	The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Development Programme	Cost-efficiency and operational synergies, especially given that operations have temporarily been relocated to Bangkok without local staff	85.6

Annex II

Extrabudgetary resources by mission under cluster I

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus

(a) In 2023, extrabudgetary resources in the amount of \$35,400 are estimated for the support of a project intended to ensure women's participation and the integration of gender perspectives, as well as the participation of civil society, including women's organizations and youth, in a future peace process in Cyprus. The project will conclude in 2023 (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2, para. 37);

(b) In 2024, no extrabudgetary resources are currently projected (ibid., para. 38).

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

(a) In 2023, extrabudgetary resources amounting to approximately \$525,300 are to be utilized mainly for the staff costs of four positions (1 P-5, 2 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), the Office's capacity-building and technical assistance programme and the preparation of the 2023 report of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect (ibid., para. 66). The P-5 and General Service (Other level) positions will be funded for four and six months, respectively;

(b) For 2024, extrabudgetary resources in the estimated amount of \$274,800 would provide for two positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), as well as the Office's capacity-building and technical assistance programme (ibid., para. 67);

(c) The decrease in the estimated extrabudgetary resources to be utilized in 2024 compared with 2023 is attributable mainly to the completion of projects supporting capacity-building and technical assistance work of the Office, as well as decreased unearmarked contributions (ibid., para. 68).

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria

(a) In 2023, extrabudgetary resources of \$272,500 are projected to fund a Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) and an Associate Political Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) and support the Office of the Special Envoy in its role of facilitating the Constitutional Committee through the provision of substantive, logistical, security and support arrangements, including liaison with interlocutors of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition, civil society, including women's groups and regional and international stakeholders, as well as other activities (ibid., para. 161);

(b) For 2024, extrabudgetary resources of \$279,000 are projected to continue to support the Office of the Special Envoy in its role of facilitating the Constitutional Committee. At the time of reporting, there was no clarity as to whether there would be positions funded from such resources in 2024 (ibid., para. 161).

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa

(a) In 2023, extrabudgetary resources amounting to approximately \$830,200 are being utilized to provide for five positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 Local level), a consultancy and temporary administrative support services (ibid., para. 188);

(b) In 2024, extrabudgetary resources in the estimated amount of \$830,200 will continue to provide for the continuation of five positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3,

1 P-2 and 1 Local level), a consultancy and temporary administrative support services (ibid., para. 189).

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

(a) In 2023, extrabudgetary resources in the amount of \$2,808,000 are estimated to support the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework through various projects under different thematic areas (ibid., para. 214);

(b) In 2024, extrabudgetary resources in the amount of \$1,500,000 are estimated to support the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework through various projects under different thematic areas (ibid., para. 215);

(c) The decrease in the estimated extrabudgetary resources to be utilized in 2024 compared with 2023 is attributable to lower projected contributions (ibid., para. 216).

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen

(a) In 2023, the Office projects that extrabudgetary resources in the total amount of \$540,100 will be utilized, including \$312,100 to support gender through training and meetings with Yemeni and international interlocutors and \$228,000 on political affairs expertise for the Special Envoy's multitrack support for the political process through the provision of a position of Political Affairs Officer (P-3) (ibid., para. 242);

(b) No extrabudgetary resources are projected for 2024 owing to the conclusion of project activities in 2023 that involve advising the Special Envoy on gender and political affairs (ibid., para. 243).

Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar

(a) In 2023, the Mission projects that extrabudgetary resources estimated in the amount of \$1,699,100 will be used to support activities and relevant initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of General Assembly resolution [76/180](#) and would provide for two P-5, one P-4 and two Local level positions. These activities and initiatives include: (i) support towards the return of Rohingya refugees and internally displaced persons; (ii) intercommunal dialogues; (iii) anti-discrimination and countering hate speech; and (iv) national reconciliation (ibid., para. 268);

(b) In 2024, extrabudgetary resources in the estimated amount of \$483,800 are projected to support the Mission's efforts to further the consolidation of democracy and to advance justice, peace and human rights in Myanmar. At the time of reporting, there was no clarity as to whether positions would be funded from such resources in 2024 (ibid., para. 269);

(c) Extrabudgetary resources in 2024 are projected to decrease from estimates in 2023, pending final donor agreements that would be solidified in the fourth quarter of 2023 in line with the Mission's single-year donor agreements practice (ibid., para. 270).