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Agenda items 13 and 139

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/79/L.21](#)

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

I. Mandate contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 54, 177, 178 and 355 of the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034, as contained in the annex to draft resolution [A/79/L.21](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Commit to exploring the establishment of regional agricultural research hubs for landlocked developing countries with a view to addressing structural impediments, enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting value addition, supporting capacity-building and facilitating improved agricultural practices; and request the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of such network hubs and report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to establish, within six months of the adoption of the present Programme of Action by the General Assembly, a high-level panel of experts comprising Member States, relevant international organizations, the private sector, academia and independent experts, to examine the application of the existing international laws and agreements, identify constraints, and make recommendations on the freedom of transit for landlocked developing countries in accordance with applicable rules of international law; and request the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the panel, along with its recommendations, to the



Member States during the eighty-first session of the General Assembly for its consideration;

(c) Commit to exploring the feasibility of establishing a dedicated infrastructure investment finance facility, building on the available financing facilities in this area, and request the Secretary-General to elaborate on its feasibility and possible modalities and submit a report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session for its consideration;

(d) With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office of the High Representative and strengthening its capabilities and effectiveness to support landlocked developing countries, as well as the effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to landlocked developing countries, request the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and to submit it with recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration at its eightieth session.

II. Relationship between the mandate contained in the draft resolution and the proposed programme budget for 2025

2. The mandate contained in the annex to draft resolution [A/79/L.21](#) requires additional deliverables and activities under the following programme plans of the proposed programme budget for 2025:

(a) programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#));

(b) programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 10\)](#)).

III. Deliverables and activities required to implement the mandate contained in the draft resolution

3. Pursuant to the requests contained in operative paragraphs 54, 177, 178 and 355 of the Programme of Action, it is envisaged that the Secretariat would undertake research and analysis, facilitate the establishment of and coordinate and support the work of a high-level panel of experts and prepare a number of reports for the General Assembly in support of the operationalization of the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2024–2034.

4. For the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the implementation of the requests would require specialized expertise in 2025 that is not available in-house to support the research, analysis and inputs into reports. Specifically, three separate specialized consultancies would be required in 2025 to: (a) explore the feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of the establishment of regional agricultural research hubs for landlocked developing countries with a view to addressing structural impediments, enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting value addition, supporting capacity-building and facilitating improved agricultural practices; (b) elaborate on the feasibility and possible modalities of establishing a dedicated infrastructure investment finance facility, building on the available financing facilities in this area; and (c) prepare an independent report on the functions of the Office of the High Representative and strengthening its capabilities and effectiveness to support landlocked developing countries, as well as the

effectiveness of the United Nations system support provided to landlocked developing countries, in consultation with Member States and the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system. With respect to all the reports, the Office of the High Representative would work in close collaboration with relevant United Nations system entities and other entities at the global and regional levels to incorporate a broad range of perspectives, as well as specific contexts that landlocked developing countries in all regions face. In particular, with the exploration of the establishment of regional agricultural research hubs, the Office of the High Representative would work, from the outset, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, as well as with relevant research organizations and ministries in landlocked developing countries to ensure that any proposals avoid duplication and are complimentary to any existing initiatives.

5. Furthermore, the Office of the High Representative would establish and support the high-level panel of experts to examine the application of the existing international laws and agreements, identify constraints, and make recommendations on the freedom of transit for landlocked developing countries in accordance with applicable rules of international law. More specifically, the Secretariat would facilitate two in-depth, in-person meetings of the panel in 2025, including organizational preparations and substantive support. One temporary position of Programme Management Assistant (General Service (Other level)) for six months in 2025 would be required to support the organizational preparations and logistics for the panel and its meetings, including travel arrangements and events management. These in-person meetings would include dedicated practical sessions across various substantive areas of international laws and agreements, as well as diverse regional contexts and capacities pertaining to freedom of transit. In preparation for, during and after the meetings of the panel, a temporary position of Senior Economic Affairs Officer (P-5) would be needed for two years for 2025 and 2026 to contribute to research and analysis on relevant topics as requested by the panel; conduct ongoing technical work between meetings; prepare technical papers and documentation; and support any informal consultations that are conducted before, during and after meetings of the panel. The Senior Economic Affairs Officer (P-5) would also help with compiling the report of the panel, along with its recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly at its eighty-first session. Contractual services would be required for graphic design and publication services to disseminate and publicize the work of the panel.

6. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate would entail the addition of three pre-session documents in 2025 with a total word count of 25,500 words, and one pre-session document in 2026 with a word-count of 10,700 words in the six official languages, which would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department.

IV. Budgetary implications

A. Conference-servicing requirements

7. Details of the additional conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1
Additional resource requirements for conference services

(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>2025–2026</i>
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management			
Other staff costs			
Documentation services	73 500	30 800	104 300
Total	73 500	30 800	104 300

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

8. Details of the additional non-conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 2.

Table 2
Additional resource requirements for non-conference services

(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>2025–2026</i>
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States			
Other staff costs	317 000	258 200	575 200
Consultants	140 000	–	140 000
Experts	192 000	–	192 000
Contractual services	–	35 000	35 000
Total	649 000	293 200	942 200

V. Summary of resource requirements

9. The budgetary implications for 2025 amount to \$775,700, including an additional amount of \$53,200 under section 36, Staff assessment, which would be offset by an equivalent increase under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, as shown in table 3. The requirements for 2026, in the estimated amount of \$359,500, including staff assessment, would be reflected under the respective budget sections in the proposed programme budget for 2026.

Table 3
Additional resource requirements by budget section (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>2025–2026</i>
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	73 500	30 800	104 300
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	649 000	293 200	942 200
Section 36, Staff assessment	53 200	35 500	88 700
Total, including staff assessment	775 700	359 500	1 135 200

VI. Potential for absorption during 2025

10. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2025 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution. At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2025 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2025. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2025.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

11. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/79/L.21](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$722,500 would arise under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2025:**

(a) **Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$73,500);**

(b) **Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (\$649,000);**

12. **The total amount of \$722,500 would require an additional appropriation for 2025 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund.**

13. **Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$53,200 would also arise under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 and would require an additional appropriation by the General Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$53,200 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**
