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Proposed programme budget for 2025

General and complete disarmament

Nuclear war effects and scientific research

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.39](#)
([A/C.5/79/16](#))**

**Thirty-second report of the Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed
programme budget for 2025**

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/79/16](#)), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.39](#) regarding nuclear war effects and scientific research. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 30 November 2024.

2. It is indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General that, under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 12 and 13 of draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.39](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to establish an independent Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War, consisting of 21 members, participating in their personal capacity, to be appointed by the Secretary-General on the basis of a public call for candidates;

(b) Also decide that the Panel should be tasked with examining the physical effects and societal consequences of a nuclear war on a local, regional and planetary scale, and that it should review and commission relevant studies, and publish a comprehensive report, make key conclusions and identify areas requiring future research;

(c) Call upon the Panel to consult with the widest range of scientists and experts, and for the Secretary-General to facilitate those consultations, including



through the provision, as required, of virtual meeting spaces, webcast and meeting room facilities at United Nations premises, for up to 10 days in 2025, and a further 10 days in 2026, and encourage these experts to contribute presentations, written reports and published material to assist the Panel in its work;

(d) Request the Chair of the Panel to brief the General Assembly at its eightieth and eighty-first sessions on progress in the work of the Panel;

(e) Decide to consider the final report of the Panel on nuclear war effects at its eighty-second session, in 2027.

II. Resource requirements

3. Tables 1 and 2 in the statement contain information relating to the additional requirements for 2025 for conference-servicing (\$51,900) and non-conference-servicing (\$9,500). The activities required to implement the mandate and the budgetary implications for 2025 are as follows (*ibid.*, paras. 4–8):

(a) For the Office for Disarmament Affairs (\$9,500): travel costs of the selected Chair of the Panel to attend 10 days of consultations in New York in 2025;

(b) For the Department of Global Communications (\$5,900): webcasting services for 20 meetings over 10 days in 2025;

(c) For the Office of Information and Communications Technology (\$46,000): videoconference services for 20 meetings over 10 days in 2025.

4. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the last United Nations report on the effects of nuclear war and associated scientific research, entitled *Study on the Climatic and Other Global Effects of Nuclear War*, was conducted in 1989. Since 1955, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, established by the General Assembly, has assessed and reported on levels and effects of exposure to ionizing radiation. The Scientific Committee undertakes scientific evaluations of sources of ionizing radiation and of the associated exposures, effects and risks to human health and to the environment, and provides an independent, objective and up-to-date scientific basis for radiation safety. Various intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have produced publications on topics related to the effects of nuclear war and associated scientific research. The International Atomic Energy Agency and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization have carried out work on the effects of radiation due to nuclear testing. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is not aware of work carried out specifically on the effects of nuclear war. According to the Office, none of these studies has the same scope or imperative as the comprehensive report envisaged by draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.39](#), namely examining the physical effects and societal consequences of a nuclear war on a local, regional and planetary scale, including, *inter alia*, the climatic, environmental and radiological effects, and their impacts on public health, global socioeconomic systems, agriculture and ecosystems, in the days, weeks and decades following a nuclear war. The Office is not aware of a similar cross-cutting initiative that covers the range of topics envisaged, including within the United Nations.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the resource requirement of \$9,500 for experts would cover the travel costs (airfare, terminal expenses and daily subsistence allowance) of the selected Chair of the Panel to New York for two weeks. For the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the Department of Global Communications, the implementation of the mandate would require videoconferencing and webcasting services for 20 meetings over 10 days in 2025. **The Advisory Committee considers that the Secretariat should be**

able to absorb the requirement for experts, webcasting and videoconferencing services within the resources of the proposed programme budget for 2025. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed requirement of \$9,500 for experts under the Office for Disarmament Affairs, \$5,900 for contractual services (webcasting) under section 28, Global communications, and \$46,000 for videoconference services under section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology.

III. Conclusion

6. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are contained in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the statement of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its observation and recommendation above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.39](#), the Assembly should request the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb the additional resource requirements for the Office for Disarmament Affairs (\$9,500), the Department of Global Communications (\$5,900) and section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology (\$46,000), failing which the related additional expenditure should be reflected in the context of the financial performance report for 2025.**
