



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee for Programme and Coordination

### Fifty-ninth session

3–28 June 2019

Agenda item 7

### Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session

## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Jun Yamada (Japan)

### Addendum

## Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the year 2020

(Item 3 (a))

### Programme 28 Safety and security

1. At its 14th meeting, on 12 June 2019, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the Review of the proposed programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies ([E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2](#)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

### Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation and strong support for the work of the Department of Safety and Security in providing security and protection to United Nations personnel, who often worked in the most difficult and dangerous situations, and encouraged the Department to continue its efforts in that regard. A delegation underscored the importance of General Assembly resolution [73/137](#), on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, while another welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through the United Nations system road safety strategy. A delegation recalled that, in the relevant resolutions on safety on security,



it was specified that activities of the Department should be limited to United Nations personnel only and that any broadening of the concept would need to be discussed by Member States.

4. Referencing the ongoing reform of the Department, clarification was sought on the statement contained in paragraph 34.7 of the programme that additional reforms would require a review of the security structures of the United Nations security management system. A delegation further sought clarification on the envisaged timeline for the second stage of reforms, as described in the same paragraph. Information was also sought as to whether the ongoing reform of the resident coordinator system had had any impact on the Department.

5. Recalling paragraphs 34.7 and 34.8 of the programme, in which it was stated that the ongoing reform of the Department had led to a new organizational structure under subprogramme 3, Specialized operational support, clarifications were sought as to the impact of the reform on the other two subprogrammes. A delegation further pointed out that the objectives in subprogrammes 2, Regional field operations, and 3 had changed compared with the previous programme plan and enquired as to whether those changes related to the reform.

6. A delegation, recalling paragraph 34.11 of the programme, welcomed that the Department had integrated a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, and sought further information on how the Department had applied that strategy operationally and strategically. Information was sought as to how the Department had addressed the prevention of sexual violence, both strategically as well as in the overall organizational culture.

7. Support was expressed for the work undertaken under subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, as well as the information provided that no incidents had been reported with regard to activities covering special events or providing access to participants. With regard to the highlighted planned result for 2020 on the integration of accreditation and badging of visitors and participants in special events, information was sought regarding the statement that, as part of the development of Umoja Extension 2, the subprogramme would implement changes in the process of accrediting and badging visitors and participants in special events held both on United Nations premises and externally. The view was expressed that it was of vital importance not to have glitches in the badging system and that any changes should expedite and simplify accreditation of visitors and participants.

8. A delegation, while expressing appreciation for improvements made to expedite accreditation and badging, emphasized that ease of movement within United Nations premises was equally important, in particular for persons with disabilities. In that regard, the view was expressed that the metal barriers at the Economic Commission for Africa were outdated and created accessibility challenges for persons with disabilities, and that, in modernizing the compound of the Commission, due attention should be given to persons with disabilities. The delegation further recalled the standardized access control project (PACT I and PACT II)<sup>1</sup> and enquired as to whether it had been implemented at the Commission. A delegation also sought clarification as to whether information technology in the field would be helpful and opined that, if used, it should be cutting-edge.

9. The importance of having constructive cooperation with the host country for any new set of rules and practices was also emphasized. Delegations pointed out that

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<sup>1</sup> The first phase was intended to ensure compliance with Headquarters minimum operating security standards for perimeter protection and electronic access control. The second phase is designed to ensure compliance with those standards with regard to defined layers of security within the perimeter (see [A/64/532](#), para. 8)

advance consultations with countries should be made to ensure a robust plan for evacuation, crisis management and emergency services. Concerns were expressed relating to the different procedures for gaining access to different United Nations buildings in New York and the lack of communication of security changes – such as gate closures and parking – that were either not properly disseminated or provided with insufficient notice.

10. A delegation recalled that, on 10 June 2019, a helicopter had crashed into a building in midtown Manhattan in New York, and enquired as to what evacuation procedures were in place in the event that a similar event occurred at the United Nations in New York. In the same context, a question was raised on whether technological innovations were helpful, including to allow instant communication and broadcasting in cooperation with staff members and other partners.

11. A number of delegations questioned the alignment of the programme with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the light of the fact that all of the Sustainable Development Goals had been selected. A delegation enquired as to whether it had been mandatory for the Department to identify those Goals it aligned with, or whether it had been given the option not to align its work to the Goals.

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