



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 135

### Proposed programme budget for 2020

## Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session

### Thirteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2020

#### I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session ([A/74/347](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 18 October 2019.

2. During its 2019 session, the Council adopted two resolutions: (a) resolution [2019/3](#) on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020; and (b) resolution [2019/32](#) on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. The related requirements for 2020 under resolution [2019/32](#), amounting to \$44,900, would be accommodated within the overall resources that would be made available for section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020. The additional costs relating to resolution [2019/3](#) would be defrayed by the host Government. Consequently, no additional appropriation is sought over and above the current level of the proposed programme budget for 2020.

#### II. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2019 session

##### Resolution [2019/3](#) on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

3. By its resolution [2019/3](#), the Council welcomed with appreciation and endorsed the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha at the highest possible level,



including Heads of State and Government, in 2021 for a duration of not more than five working days. The Secretary-General indicates that the Government would need to defray the related additional costs in accordance with General Assembly resolution [40/243](#), which stipulates that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved ([A/74/347](#), paras. 4–5).

4. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Government of Qatar would bear all expenses related to hosting the conference in Doha, including travel costs, and would also provide expert staff, including translators, protocol and liaison officers and local secretariat staff. The Government had additionally announced a contribution of \$500,000 towards the costs of the preparatory process for the conference.

#### **Resolution [2019/32](#) on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

5. By its resolution [2019/32](#), the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2020 session and requested the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council for its consideration at its 2020 session (*ibid.*, para. 6).

6. It is estimated that the support to be provided to the Advisory Group would amount to \$44,900, comprising: (a) the travel expenses of members of the Advisory Group and up to two staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to meet with the international financial institutions and the Organization of American States in 2020 and undertake a mission to Haiti in the same year (\$40,400); and (b) meeting support services and other expenses in Haiti (\$4,500). The Secretary-General proposes that those requirements be accommodated within the overall resources that would be made available for section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (*ibid.*, paras. 7–8).

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Advisory Group was initially created by the Economic and Social Council in 1999, following a request by the Security Council in its resolution [1212 \(1998\)](#), in which it invited United Nations bodies and agencies, especially the Economic and Social Council, to contribute to the designing of a long-term programme of support for Haiti. In 2004, the Economic and Social Council reactivated the Advisory Group following a request by the Prime Minister of Haiti. The Advisory Group's mandate has since been renewed annually by the Council.

8. With respect to the related resource requirements, the Advisory Committee was informed that, when the mandate of the Advisory Group had first been extended by the Council, after 2004, the requirements had been included in the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council. The requirements had not been included in the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget because the mandate had subsequently been extended only after the proposal or approval of the programme budget.

### **III. Conclusion**

9. Section IV of the report contains the actions requested of the General Assembly.

10. **In relation to resolution [2019/3](#) on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, the Advisory Committee**

**recommends that the General Assembly take note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha in 2021.**

**11. With respect to resolution [2019/32](#) on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposal to accommodate the resource requirements of \$44,900 within the overall resources that would be made available under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020.**

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