



General Assembly

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Item 141 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2021

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In section IV, paragraph 2, of its resolution [60/248](#), the General Assembly endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium. In that context, and in accordance with resolution [72/266 A](#), in which the Assembly approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, the Assembly is requested to approve a proposed subvention in the amount of \$276,200 to the Institute from the regular budget of the United Nations for 2021. The related provision is included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2021 ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#)).

In order to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the process for the request for a subvention from the regular budget to UNIDIR and the review and approval thereof, the General Assembly is requested to approve the discontinuation of the submission of the notes from the Secretary-General requesting a subvention from the regular budget, with such requests to be submitted only in the context of the proposed programme budget for section 4, Disarmament.

* [A/75/50](#).



1. The present note is submitted to the General Assembly in the context of its consideration of a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) from the regular budget of the United Nations for 2021.
2. The Secretary-General, in his report on the thirty-fifth anniversary of UNIDIR (A/73/284), drawing on the findings of the independent third-party assessment undertaken between January and May 2018, encouraged Member States to make an annual subvention to UNIDIR as part of the revised regular budget cycle. He also made recommendations on how the subvention should be used. In addition, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as Board of Trustees of the Institute and pursuant to its mandate to recommend a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations, has consistently recommended a continued and, more specifically, increased subvention to UNIDIR from the regular budget. In its most recent report (A/74/247), the Board recommended an increase in the annual subvention and welcomed the aforementioned proposals of the Secretary-General (contained in A/73/284). The First Committee of the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, took no action on the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/284).
3. The proposed programme budget of the United Nations for 2021, under section 4, Disarmament (A/75/6 (Sect. 4)), contains a provision of \$276,200 for the subvention from the regular budget towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute. This figure reflects the recurrent resources required to cover the costs of the post of Director (D-2), as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/263. In accordance with established procedures, this amount will be subject to recosting.
4. It is recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/248, endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the Institute be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium. In accordance with Assembly resolution 72/266 A, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, the budget period was changed from biennial to annual on a trial basis.
5. **Accordingly, the General Assembly is hereby requested to approve a subvention to UNIDIR of \$276,200 (before recosting) from the regular budget of the United Nations for 2021, the provision for which has been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2021.**
6. As explained in the present note and in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/74/7/Add.9), the process of requesting a subvention from the regular budget to UNIDIR comprises two mechanisms (the proposed programme budget for section 4, Disarmament, and the notes by the Secretary-General). It is therefore duplicative and, with a view to streamlining the process, **the Secretary-General requests the General Assembly to approve the discontinuation of the annual note from the Secretary-General requesting a subvention from the regular budget. Starting in 2021 with the request for the subvention for 2022, it is proposed that the Institute's annual subvention request be submitted only as part of the proposed programme budget for section 4, Disarmament.**