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Proposed programme budget for 2021

General and complete disarmament: problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

Programme budget implications of draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.67](#)

Thirtieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2021

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/75/10](#)), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.67](#) on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee interacted remotely with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 2 December 2020.

2. Under the terms of draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.67](#), the General Assembly would, inter alia, decide to request the Secretary-General to convene the Group of Governmental Experts on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, established pursuant to its resolution [72/55](#), for up to 10 working days in 2021 to enable the Group to complete its work.

3. The statement of the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/75/10](#)) provides information on: (a) the relationship of the proposed requests to the proposed programme budget for 2021 (*ibid.*, para. 3); (b) the activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented (*ibid.*, paras. 4–5); (c) the financial implications of the proposals (*ibid.*, paras. 6–13); and (d) the potential for absorption during 2021 (*ibid.*, para. 16).



II. Resource requirements

4. The implementation of the proposed requests would entail additional resource requirements totalling \$286,900 in 2021. These resources would include the following requirements:

(a) **Conference-servicing.** An amount of \$88,500, comprising \$85,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and \$3,500 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, would be required in support of meetings and documentation for one five-day session, consisting of 10 meetings, to be held in 2021 in New York. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a provision for the five-day session in Geneva was included in the proposed programme budget for 2021 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and conference management;

(b) **Non-conference-servicing.** An amount of \$198,400 under section 4, Disarmament, would cover the travel-related costs for the experts and the secretary of the Group of Governmental Experts to attend the sessions.

5. The Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/55](#), the following provisions were approved in the programme budget for 2020: \$85,000 for conference-servicing requirements for one five-day session to be held in New York; and \$387,300 for non-conference-servicing requirements to convene the Group of Governmental Experts for 10 working days ([A/C.5/75/10](#), paras. 6 and 10). The Secretary-General also indicates that the approved resources for 2020 will be surrendered in the context of the financial performance report for 2020. Upon enquiry regarding the reduced requirement under section 4, of \$198,400 for 2021 compared to \$387,300 for 2020, the Advisory Committee was informed that the composition of the Group of Governmental Experts was not known when the initial costing was undertaken in 2017. As the Administration is now aware that the Group is composed of 18 experts located across different regions, the new travel requirements have been calculated based on the actual, not estimated, locations.

6. The Secretary-General also indicates that no provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2021 for the implementation of the activities requested in the draft decision and that, at this stage, it is not possible to identify activities that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2021.

III. Conclusion

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.67](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$286,900 for 2021 would arise under the proposed programme budget for 2021, comprising \$85,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, \$198,400 under section 4, Disarmament, and \$3,500 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva. The amount of \$286,900 would require an additional appropriation for 2021 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**