



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 138

## Proposed programme budget for 2023

### Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Marinko Avramović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

#### I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 138 are set out in the report of the Committee contained in document [A/77/672](#).
2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 27th and 28th meetings, on 9 and 31 March 2023. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's formal consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>
3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

#### Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/77/629](#))

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/77/7/Add.41](#))

#### Enterprise resource planning project, Umoja

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress on the functioning and development of the Umoja system ([A/77/495](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the eleventh and final annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system ([A/77/135](#))

<sup>1</sup> [A/C.5/77/SR.27](#) and [A/C.5/77/SR.28](#).



Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/77/7/Add.21](#))

#### **Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials**

Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals ([A/77/346](#))

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/77/7/Add.7](#))

#### **Capital investment planning**

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/77/519](#))

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/77/7/Add.23](#))

#### **Information and communications technology strategy**

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/77/489](#))

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/77/7/Add.22](#))

Note by the Secretary-General drawing attention to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations” ([JIU/REP/2021/3](#)) ([A/77/88](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Cybersecurity in the United Nations system organizations” ([JIU/REP/2021/3](#)) ([A/77/88/Add.1](#))

## **II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/77/L.30](#)**

4. At its 28th meeting, on 31 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Special subjects relating to the programme budget for 2023” ([A/C.5/77/L.30](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representatives of Bangladesh, Kenya and Switzerland.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/77/L.30](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

### III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### Special subjects relating to the programme budget for 2023

*The General Assembly,*

##### I

##### Standards of accommodation for air travel

*Recalling* its resolutions [37/240](#) of 21 December 1982 and [42/214](#) of 21 December 1987, section IV, paragraph 14, of its resolution [53/214](#) of 18 December 1998, section XV of its resolution [62/238](#) of 22 December 2007, section II of its resolution [63/268](#) of 7 April 2009, section IV of its resolution [65/268](#) of 4 April 2011, section VI of its resolution [67/254](#) A of 12 April 2013, section IV of its resolution [69/274](#) A of 2 April 2015, section VI of its resolution [71/272](#) B of 6 April 2017, section I of its resolution [72/262](#) B of 4 April 2018 and section V of its resolution [75/253](#) B of 16 April 2021, as well as its decision 57/589 of 18 June 2003,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the standards of accommodation for air travel<sup>1</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Reaffirms* that the International Civil Service Commission shall establish, inter alia, standards of travel under article 11 (b) of its statute;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to limit the use of exceptions, to strengthen internal controls in this regard, and to encourage eminent and prominent persons to voluntarily downgrade from their entitled class;
5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make additional efforts to encourage all individuals who qualify for first-class or business class United Nations-funded air travel to voluntarily downgrade from their entitled class, where possible and to report thereon in his next report on standards of accommodation for air travel;
6. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to hold managers accountable for the judicious use of travel resources, in particular by increasingly encouraging the use of alternative methods of communication and representation and by giving primary consideration to authorizing official travel only where direct face-to-face contact is necessary for mandate implementation;
7. *Recalls* paragraph 20 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and further requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed disaggregated statistical information on reasons for non-compliance with the advance purchase policy;
8. *Reiterates its serious concern* at the low compliance with the advance purchase policy directive in all travel categories, and requests the Secretary-General to take more effective measures to improve the situation in order to reduce air travel costs, given that most official travel is not carried out for the purpose of emergency

<sup>1</sup> [A/77/629](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/77/7/Add.41](#).

situations or unforeseen requirements, and to provide information on these measures in his next report;

9. *Decides* that compliance with the advance purchase policy for travel is a prerequisite to undertaking any travel above economy class for all staff below the level of Assistant Secretary-General (and eligible family members), with exceptions made for delayed travel documents, when appropriate;

10. *Notes with concern* that the current provider for air travel management services at Headquarters has been in place since 2005, underlines that the contract for the current provider for air travel management services at Headquarters will expire in October 2023, and requests the Secretary-General to take measures to ensure that the existing process of booking of air tickets through the contracted travel agency is cost-effective;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the procurement process for all air travel management services contracts is conducted in full compliance with general procurement principles as set out in financial regulation 5.12, namely, (a) best value for money; (b) fairness, integrity and transparency; (c) effective international competition; and (d) the interest of the United Nations,<sup>3</sup> and to ensure that the procurement process includes the option of awarding a contract to multiple vendors to allow for greater competition among selected vendors;

12. *Decides* that the President of the International Court of Justice and the President of the General Assembly shall not be entitled to first-class accommodation for air travel, and invites the Secretary-General to voluntarily downgrade from his entitled class;

13. *Emphasizes* that the use of a single threshold, as proposed by the Secretary-General, may result in increased adherence to the advance purchase policy and reduced travel agency costs, looks forward to additional information to be provided in the next report in favour of this proposal, and decides to consider approving a single threshold at the seventy-ninth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the lump-sum option for home leave and to propose, as the basis for lump-sum calculation, an amount equal to actually incurred costs for home leave, including options based on the most restrictive economy fare, in accordance with the staff regulations and rules;

15. *Recalls* the Rules Governing Payment of Travel Expenses and Subsistence Allowances in respect of Members of Organs or Subsidiary Organs of the United Nations,<sup>4</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to continue to abide by those rules when providing travel to delegations of least developed countries;

16. *Decides* that the changes set out in the present resolution shall not affect the current standards of accommodation for air travel and daily subsistence allowance of members of organs and/or subsidiary organs, committees, councils and commissions of the United Nations, including standards applicable to delegations of least developed countries;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 26 of the report of the Advisory Committee, notes that a transition to a single threshold for business class may expand the use of online booking tools, and requests the Secretary-General to review the use of these tools and to report thereon at the first part of its resumed seventy-ninth session;

<sup>3</sup> See [ST/SGB/2013/4](#).

<sup>4</sup> [ST/SGB/107/Rev.6](#).

## II

### Enterprise resource planning project, Umoja

*Recalling* section II of its resolution [60/283](#) of 7 July 2006, section II of its resolution [63/262](#) of 24 December 2008, its resolution [64/243](#) of 24 December 2009, section II.A of its resolution [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010, its resolution [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011, section III of its resolution [66/263](#) of 21 June 2012, section III of its resolution [67/246](#) of 24 December 2012, its resolution [68/246](#) of 27 December 2013, sections IV and VI of its resolution [69/274](#) A of 2 April 2015, section XVII of its resolution [70/248](#) A of 23 December 2015, section XIV of its resolution [71/272](#) A of 23 December 2016, section XXI of its resolution [72/262](#) A of 24 December 2017, section XVII of its resolution [73/279](#) A of 22 December 2018, section XVII of its resolution [74/263](#) of 27 December 2019, section V of its resolution [75/253](#) A of 31 December 2020, section VI of its resolution [76/246](#) A of 24 December 2021 and its decision 77/548 of 30 December 2022,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the progress on the functioning and development of the Umoja system,<sup>5</sup> the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the eleventh and final annual progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system<sup>6</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>7</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and the note by the Secretary-General;
2. *Also takes note* of the findings of the report of the Board of Auditors, and endorses the recommendations contained therein;
3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

## III

### Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

*Recalling* its resolutions [37/240](#) of 21 December 1982, [40/257](#) A to C of 18 December 1985, [45/250](#) A to C of 21 December 1990 and [48/252](#) A to C of 26 May 1994, section VIII of its resolution [53/214](#) of 18 December 1998, its resolutions [55/249](#) of 12 April 2001, [56/285](#) of 27 June 2002, [57/289](#) of 20 December 2002 and [58/264](#) of 23 December 2003, section III of its resolution [59/282](#) of 13 April 2005, its resolutions [61/262](#) of 4 April 2007, [63/259](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/261](#) of 29 March 2010 and [65/258](#) of 24 December 2010, section VI of its resolution [71/272](#) A of 23 December 2016 and section II of its resolution [75/253](#) B of 16 April 2021 and its decision 77/548 of 30 December 2022,

*Recalling also* Article 32 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly that govern the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice and for the President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and President and judges of the International Residual

<sup>5</sup> [A/77/495](#).

<sup>6</sup> [A/77/135](#).

<sup>7</sup> [A/77/7/Add.21](#).

Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals<sup>8</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee,<sup>9</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Takes note* of paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee, welcomes that the Secretary-General has provided background information and options, and decides to maintain the current pension scheme of the judges;
4. *Requests* the Chair of the Fifth Committee to solicit a formal legal opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat by the main part of its seventy-eighth session, containing an assessment of legal impediments, if any, to the introduction of changes to the pension scheme for judges of the International Court of Justice and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, in particular changes that will result in judges having different pension schemes while serving on the Court, and changes that lower the level of pension benefits for new judges, including through a legal assessment of the Statute of the International Court of Justice and the Statute of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals;
5. *Invites* the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of this assessment and to consider providing advice on this assessment for further discussion by the Fifth Committee, taking into consideration the submitted report of the Secretary-General.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> A/77/346.

<sup>9</sup> A/77/7/Add.7.

<sup>10</sup> A/77/346.