



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
29 June 2023

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-third session

30 May–30 June 2023

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Rouven **Klein** (Germany)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2024

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 28

Safety and security

1. At its 11th meeting, on 5 June 2023, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance in 2022 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)).
2. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security introduced the programme and responded to questions raised by the Committee during its consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. A delegation expressed strong support for the Department of Safety and Security and recognized the Department as a critical partner in executing humanitarian assistance, especially in insecure environments. It was noted that the growing conflict and insecurity around the world continued to increase humanitarian needs and that many of the world's most vulnerable faced multiple destabilizing factors, including unprecedented levels of climate change-induced migration and indifference to international humanitarian law. The delegation commended the efforts of the Department to increase its engagement in broader United Nations planning processes, including those led by humanitarian actors, development entities and peace operations. The delegation also commended the Department's efforts to improve its information and knowledge management systems and encouraged the use of public and transparent risk incident systems in cooperation with regional and non-governmental organization partners, as well as the adoption of standard operating procedures regarding the victims of violence registry for fatalities in service, which is designed



to follow up with relevant host Governments on cases of serious crimes and acts of violence resulting in death or serious injury of United Nations personnel, in collaboration with other departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat. The Department's integration of gender perspectives into a gender-sensitive security management system, as well as the implementation of a disability strategy to foster and improve diversity, equity and inclusion, was welcomed.

4. With regard to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, the same delegation expressed concern given the increase in safety and security incidents affecting all humanitarian personnel, including increased fatalities and injuries from acts of violence, as well as increased intimidation and harassment, all of which were highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel ([A/77/362](#)) from January 2021 to June 2022. In particular, the delegation expressed concern about improving the protection of locally recruited humanitarian workers, who represented the majority of deaths, injuries and abduction of aid workers, and urged the United Nations to improve internal protection and accountability measures for cases of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by United Nations personnel or aid workers against other aid workers. To that end, support regarding the use of all tools available to promote accountability, consistent with international law, for those responsible for unlawful acts on medical and humanitarian personnel, was emphasized. Furthermore, the delegation pointed out that maintaining the safety of humanitarian personnel and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need was critical to keeping people alive. The view was expressed that the long-standing work must continue to keep the humanitarian crises in Ethiopia, Yemen, the Syrian Arab Republic and South Sudan on the agenda of the Security Council. Questions were raised with regard to what, if any, information-sharing and accessibility improvements had been made by the Department during the past year to facilitate data-driven decision-making, and to what extent the Department had engaged in contingency planning for non-traditional security issues such as cybersecurity, the weaponization of artificial intelligence and data security.

5. Appreciation was expressed by another delegation for the work of the Department in ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The same delegation welcomed the training programme on providing access to psychosocial support and resilience-building for United Nations security management system personnel in response to critical incident stress and mental health issues under subprogramme 3. That delegation was of the opinion that, as the security environment remained complex and unpredictable, several constant risks existed and none of them could be neglected. In this regard, clarification was sought as to why the Department deemed it relevant to list specific risks at the expense of others, and why, in the opening statement and foreword of the report ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)), reference was made to climate change – just one of the multiple factors affecting the security environment. The view was expressed that it was not appropriate to highlight climate change, as it was not relevant to the discussion.

6. Delegations thanked the Department for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2024 and welcomed its efforts to continually improve and change, as well as to look at ways to improve service delivery, lessons learned and work across the United Nations system to ensure a better joint approach. Appreciation was expressed for the Department's important role in enabling the United Nations system to carry out programmes and activities at Headquarters and in the field, as well as keeping United Nations personnel safe in often complex and challenging operating environments. The leadership role that the Department played in the development, updating and implementation of system-wide policies and measures was noted, while at the same time it was pointed out that it was crucial to increase coherence between

services and system-wide approaches to safety and security. In reference to the two evaluations planned for 2024, as reflected in paragraph 34.19 of the report, a question was raised as to how the focus of those evaluations would be determined and how to ensure they contributed to continuous improvement in carrying out the Department's mandate. With regard to paragraph 34.5 of the same report, additional information was sought regarding the anticipated benefits to the work of the Department in consolidating policy and partnerships functions in the proposed Division of Partnerships and Specialized Support. Another delegation requested background information on the benefits of partnerships in the proposed division.

7. A delegation welcomed efforts undertaken by the Department to integrate a gender perspective in support of a gender-sensitive approach to security management and security operations, as well as to incorporate disability inclusion when developing plans and strategies. In respect of the strategy in paragraph 34.34 (c) under subprogramme 2, Field operations, the same delegation asked what the Under-Secretary-General was planning with regard to cases of rapid deployment. Information was also requested regarding the ability of the Secretariat to find staff and whether local staff would be considered.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee commended the important work carried out by the Department of Safety and Security in providing leadership, operational support and oversight of the United Nations security management system to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and premises and to support the implementation of United Nations mandates, programmes and operations in the increasingly complex global security environment.**

9. **The Committee noted the ongoing efforts of the Department in improving the dissemination of information, the effectiveness of the security risk management process and an effective and adequate surge capacity.**

10. **The Committee welcomed the rapid deployment of crisis management expertise and surge support in response to multiple crises, where the capacity was unavailable or insufficient.**

11. **The Committee commended the Department for its efforts in mainstreaming disability inclusion into its activities and operations, including its plan to improve physical accessibility for persons with disabilities.**

12. **The Committee emphasized the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, as well as the need to strengthen risk management, the internal control framework, results-based management and transparency. The Committee also emphasized the importance for the Department of a reliable audit, investigation and evaluation system. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 67/253, in which the Assembly welcomed the progress made towards the implementation of enterprise risk management, and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect its application in the Department's future programme plans.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2024, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 34.2

Replace the existing text with the following:

The security environment in which the United Nations operates remains highly complex and unpredictable, owing to multiple factors including war, conflict, civil unrest and crime, as well as the expansion by non-State armed groups of their scope and capabilities by exploiting unaddressed grievances, the indifference to international humanitarian law of some actors and unprecedented levels of climate change-induced migration, in specific contexts, interacting with social, political and economic drivers, in places where the United Nations is called to deliver its mandates.

Paragraph 34.4

In the second sentence, insert “various economic challenges, including” before “rising inflation globally”.
