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Agenda items 134 and 20 (a)

Proposed programme budget for 2024

**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fifth
United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#)

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

I. Introduction

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 21 November 2023, the Second Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#) without a vote. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee ([A/C.2/78/L.70](#)).

II. Mandate contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 25 and 50 of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to undertake, with the least developed countries, a comprehensive study involving all relevant United Nations development system entities and other relevant stakeholders on the existing arrangements, lessons learned and gaps identified and to submit it to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session for further consideration;

(b) Approve the proposal of the Secretary-General for strengthening the capacity and functions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in view of the increased demand from the three groups of countries, improving its strategic position in dealing with key development issues and processes relevant to the most vulnerable countries and providing important service benefits to them while improving its performance implementation rate, and request the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Office in the context of the proposed programme budget for the year 2025.



III. Relationship between the mandate contained in the draft resolution and the proposed programme budget for 2024

3. The mandate contained in draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#) requires additional deliverables and activities under programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#)), of the proposed programme budget for 2024.

IV. Deliverables and activities required to implement the mandate contained in the draft resolution

4. Pursuant to the mandate contained in operative paragraph 25 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that a comprehensive study on initiatives and arrangements involving the United Nations development system and other stakeholders for a comprehensive multi-hazard early warning system and comprehensive multi-hazard crises mitigation and resilience-building measures, including comprehensive disaster risk financing strategies for the least developed countries and lessons learned and gaps identified, will be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

5. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate would constitute an addition to the documentation workload in 2024 of one pre-session document with an estimated word count of 8,500 words in all six official languages.

6. Pursuant to the mandate contained in operative paragraph 50 of the draft resolution, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the year 2025, strengthening the capabilities and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, including provisions for five additional posts (2 P-4 and 3 P-3), supporting an increased demand from the three groups of countries and enhancing coherence among the three groups of countries on common issues are envisaged.

V. Budgetary implications

7. Details of the additional requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1
Additional resource requirements
(United States dollars)

	2024	2025	From 2026 onwards
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management			
Other staff costs			
Documentation services	24 500	—	—
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States			
Posts	—	546 000	1 091 500
Consultants	—	50 000	50 000
Experts	—	50 000	50 000

	2024	2025	From 2026 onwards
Travel of staff	–	50 000	50 000
Contractual services	–	9 000	9 000
Supplies and materials	–	1 000	1 000
Furniture and equipment	–	17 500	–
Section 29B, Department of Operational Support			
General operating expenses	–	71 000	–
Total	24 500	794 500	1 251 500

8. An additional amount of \$2,900 would be required in 2024 under section 36, Staff assessment.

9. The requirements for 2025, in the amount of \$794,500, would be reflected under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2025:

- (a) Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (\$723,500);
- (b) Section 29B, Department of Operational Support (\$71,000).

VI. Summary of resource requirements

10. The budgetary implications for 2024 amount to \$27,400, as shown in table 2.

Table 2

Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

	2024	2025	From 2026 onwards
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	24 500	–	–
Section 10, Least development countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	–	723 500	1 251 500
Section 29B, Department of Operational Support	–	71 000	–
Section 36, Staff assessment	2 900	55 900	111 800
Total, including staff assessment	27 400	850 400	1 363 300

VII. Potential for absorption during 2024

11. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2024 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution. At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2024 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2024. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2024.

VIII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

12. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$24,500 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2024.

13. The amount of \$24,500 would require an additional appropriation for 2024 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund.

14. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$2,900 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024 and would require an additional appropriation by the General Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$2,900 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.
