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Proposed programme budget for 2024

**Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation
of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)
Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the
Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States**

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.45](#)

Thirty-sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2024

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/78/25](#)) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.45](#), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 1 December 2023.

2. It is indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement of the Secretary-General that, under the terms of operative paragraphs 12 and 13 of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.45](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session to appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to launch, as soon as possible, an intergovernmental process, supported through an interim secretariat provided jointly by the Department of



Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to consider the recommendations presented in the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, its applicability, scope, custodianship and governance and ways to further improve it that would allow for the implementation of the index, and to report back to the General Assembly by the end of its seventy-eighth session;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to assess how multidimensional vulnerability is currently considered by the United Nations system, explore the potential uses and application of the multidimensional vulnerability index and inform the intergovernmental process.

II. Resource requirements

3. Table 1 of the statement contains the additional requirements of \$129,800 for 2024, comprising \$64,900 for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and \$64,900 for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. It is envisaged that the Department and the Office would conduct a study to assess how multidimensional vulnerability is currently considered by the United Nations system, explore the potential uses and application of the multidimensional vulnerability index and inform the intergovernmental process to be launched by the President of General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. The resources would provide for two consultants: (a) a senior consultant who is an economist and multidimensional vulnerability expert with experience in building or working with the index developed by the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States. The consultant would support the intergovernmental processes on the index, respond to technical questions on index construction, methodology of calculation and the types of indicators, support the inter-agency working group of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and also support the integration of the methodology into existing programmes as needed; and (b) a consultant who is a statistician/economist and multidimensional vulnerability expert with experience in building the index developed by the High-level Panel and who would support the intergovernmental processes on the index to address technical questions but would focus primarily on providing day-to-day support for the United Nations system in exploring uses of the index. The consultant would work with United Nations entities on the integration of the index into their programmes and respond to data requests, methodological questions and other related request for support. The consultants would be engaged jointly by the Department and the Office, and the resource requirements would accordingly be distributed equally. With regard to the intergovernmental process to be launched by the President of General Assembly, it is the understanding of the Secretariat that it would be an informal process without additional meeting services and interpretation (*ibid.*, paras. 4–7).

4. Regarding existing capacity, the Advisory Committee was informed that there were no Statistician posts in subprogramme 3, although the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had 56 Statistician posts (including 10 who were Chiefs of Section with managerial responsibilities) under its subprogramme 4, Statistics, which were not related to the work on the multidimensional vulnerability index. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States did not currently have any Statistician posts. The Office had an Associate Data Analyst post (P-2) focused on data

visualization and was proposing the establishment of a new P-3 Statistician post in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2024.

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that full-time support would be required for: (a) a new intergovernmental process; and (b) a new inter-agency working group process. Previous experience in supporting the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States had shown that that type of work would require full-time attention given its political, economic and technical sensitivities. As the United Nations agencies were now requested to explore its uses and had not been previously exposed to the methodology, there would be a need to provide dedicated technical support and guidance to those agencies. That support not only involved conducting additional statistical analysis using multidimensional vulnerability index data and any other relevant data; it also required the specific, relatively niche skill of index construction as well as expertise in vulnerability and resilience concepts, frameworks and measurements. Such expertise would aid relevant analysis and explanations during the intergovernmental process. Furthermore, the proposed consultants would conduct additional analysis, examining the potential impact of integrating the index into the allocation formula of international financial institutions. Their role extended to providing technical support during consultations with Member States and engaging with other stakeholders, such as international financial institutions and other United Nations agencies. The dedicated support provided by the consultant would help to foster understanding of the various aspects of the index.

6. It is indicated in paragraph 11 of the statement that no provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2024 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution and that, at this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections 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.

III. Conclusion

7. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are contained in paragraph 12 of the statement of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.45](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$129,800 would arise under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2024:**

- (a) **Section 9, Economic and social affairs (\$64,900);**
- (b) **Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (\$64,900).**

The total amount of \$129,800 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.