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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](#)

Thirty-eighth 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.5/78/26](#)) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#), 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 the statement of the Secretary-General that, 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 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 (*ibid.*, para. 2).

II. Resource requirements

3. Table 2 in the statement sets out the additional requirements for 2024 and 2025 (see table below).

Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>From 2026 onwards</i>
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

4. 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. 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 in all six official languages (*ibid.*, paras. 4–5).

5. It is also envisaged, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the year 2025, that the capabilities and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative will be strengthened, including provisions for five additional posts (2 P-4 and 3 P-3), to support an increased demand from the three groups of countries and to enhance coherence among the three groups on common issues. 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); and (b) section 29B, Department of Operational Support (\$71,000) (*ibid.*, paras. 6 and 9). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, for 2023, it was proposed that the Office would be strengthened with one Economic Affairs Officer (P-4), one Associate Programme Management Officer (P-2) and one Senior Finance and Budget Assistant (General Service (Principal level)), all in the Least Developed Countries Unit. The anticipated increase in travel of staff and experts for 2025 was linked to the tasks deriving from the strengthening of the capacities and functions of the Office recommended in the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring the effective implementation of the functions of the Office ([A/77/984](#)) and which the General Assembly would approve should it adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.57](#). The expected increase in travel of staff would amount to 11.5 per cent

of the proposed total travel of staff in 2024 and the expected increase in travel of experts would amount to 10 per cent of the proposed travel of experts.

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 section 2 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 paragraphs 12 to 14 of the statement of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the 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. The amount of \$24,500 would require an additional appropriation for 2024 to be approved by the Assembly and, accordingly, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund. 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 Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$2,900 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**
