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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel M. Novicio (Philippines)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2025

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 28 Safety and security

1. At its 10th meeting, on 17 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)).

Discussion

2. Delegations thanked the Department of Safety and Security for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and expressed appreciation and support for the Department's commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all staff and personnel, delegates, dignitaries and other visitors at United Nations Headquarters and other locations away from Headquarters. Appreciation was also expressed for the Department's continued focus on resilience, efficiency and results.

3. A delegation highlighted the recent reappointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and looked forward to his continued support for the completion of the ongoing reforms.

4. A delegation noted the Department's fundamental role in enabling the delivery of United Nations programmes and recognized it as a critical partner in executing humanitarian assistance, especially in insecure environments. It was noted that the United Nations operated all over the globe and faced numerous challenges and increasing risks in various locations, most frequently in highly dangerous conflict zones. Growing conflict and insecurity around the world continued to increase humanitarian needs, and many of the world's most vulnerable faced multiple converging destabilizing factors, including unprecedented levels of climate change-



induced migration and indifference to international humanitarian law by some actors. Accordingly, it was more critical than ever that humanitarian workers were present to assist those in the greatest need.

5. The Department was commended for its efforts to modernize towards a security risk management-based approach, given how inextricably linked access, programming, and safety and security were in humanitarian operations. The Department was also commended for its efforts to improve its information and knowledge management systems and was encouraged to use public and transparent risk incident systems in cooperation with regional and non-governmental organization partners.

6. It was emphasized that the safety of United Nations personnel, including humanitarian personnel, unhindered humanitarian access to people in need, and the safeguarding of United Nations premises and property were of critical importance. In that regard, delegations applauded the brave work of the Department's personnel and their vital role in enabling United Nations system entities to deliver their programmes and activities both at Headquarters and in the field, including the provision of security for some 180,000 personnel and their 400,000 dependents in over 125 countries, amid challenging security contexts.

7. Support was expressed for the use of all available tools to promote accountability, consistent with international law, for those responsible for unlawful attacks on medical and humanitarian personnel, and the need to continue the long-standing work to keep the humanitarian consequences of crises on the agenda of the Security Council. A delegation expressed condolences in relation to the recent killing of a Security Coordination Officer in the field, while he was performing security functions on the ground, and highlighted the demanding context and difficult circumstances under which the Department operated. The delegation reiterated the importance of the work of the Department, including as reflected in the proposed programme plan for 2025, and called for the Department's continued support to enable programme delivery.

8. A delegation welcomed the Department's championing of adaptation and continuous improvement and commended its innovative approach and consistent efforts to assess and enhance service delivery, record lessons learned and ensure cohesion and consistency across the United Nations system. Clarification was sought regarding how the Department was responding to increased demands as a result of multiple crises and any adaptation measures taken in response to the prevailing security context.

9. Delegations also welcomed the Department's integration of gender perspectives into a gender-sensitive security management system, as well as the implementation of a disability strategy to help foster and improve diversity, equity and inclusion, which were key to the effective fulfilment of the Department's mandate. The Department was encouraged to continue to strengthen those efforts.

10. While matters relating to parts of the programme dealing with resources were not within the mandate of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, a delegation recalled the recent approval by the General Assembly, in its resolution [78/253](#), of 19 posts to strengthen the Department's operational resilience and emergency response to crises, and expressed the view that those enhanced capabilities would enable the Department to respond with agility to challenges to safety and security that could affect the implementation of mandates, and looked forward to seeing positive results. Another delegation strongly encouraged other delegations to join it in addressing the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, in order to

reinforce the efforts of the Department to fulfil its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes.

11. A delegation pointed out the difficulties and constraints encountered owing to limited access to the United Nations Headquarters garage and premises, resulting from modifications in access control arrangements in response to the United Nations liquidity crisis, and sought information on the prospects for a return to normal operating hours at the entrances to United Nations premises following the end of the austerity measures.

12. Regarding paragraph 34.17, a delegation sought clarification on the themes and areas of focus of the two evaluations planned for 2025 by the Department and regretted that the responses provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General were far from satisfactory.

13. With regard to result 3 of subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, delegations welcomed the simplification of the process for delegates and staff travelling between duty stations through the introduction of a common security platform to allow the same identification card (grounds pass) to be used in different duty stations. A delegation expressed the view that the concept of a unified global access control system had not been developed in accordance with the plan drafted 20 years ago and sought clarification as to whether the planned target of 2025 took into account lessons learned from previous projects, including past failures.

14. On the strategy for subprogramme 2, Field operations, in particular paragraph 34.32 (c), a delegation observed that the words “including those” had been added to the language of the previous report (A/78/6 (Sect. 34)), and pointed out that those words would widen the scope of the deployment of security personnel. The delegation sought clarification in that regard.

15. Regarding paragraph 34.34, on programme performance in 2023, clarification was sought on the additional security assistance provided to enable United Nations response in locations affected by crises, including information on the process involved and the locations. On the same subject, additional information was sought on how the scale and distribution of work were determined, including any shared responsibilities with United Nations forces on the ground and the Department of Peace Operations.

16. Reference was made to table 34.8 and the performance measure for 2025, namely “Timely coordination and response, with a crisis coordination mechanism established, as required, within 72 hours of a specific crisis”. The view was expressed that, for any given crisis, a rapid response was of crucial importance. Accordingly, clarification was sought on the scientific basis for setting such a long response time for establishing a coordination mechanism during a specific crisis.

17. A delegation drew attention to the celebration of the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations in 2025, emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and property, and trusted that the Department would coordinate with the host country in that regard.

18. With regard to subprogramme 3, Partnerships and specialized support, a delegation expressed appreciation for the work of the physical security experts for their ability to rapidly deploy and provide training solutions and support with regard to specific safety challenges in different locations as and when they emerged, as indicated in paragraph 34.47 on programme performance in 2023.

19. Regarding figure 34.III, a delegation questioned the rapid growth in the cumulative number of security personnel certified to provide precise and effective security management advice, from 0 in 2021 to 100 in 2022 to 1,126 in 2023, with a

planned surge to 3,000 and 4,000 in 2024 and 2025, respectively. The delegation sought clarification on the rationale for such a trend.

Conclusions and recommendations

20. The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [78/244](#), consider the programme plan for programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.
