



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 June 2024

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-fourth session

New York, 13 May–14 June 2024

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2025

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 23 Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 16th meeting, on 24 May 2024, the Committee considered programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)).

Discussion

2. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Delegations also expressed their appreciation for the presentation of a comprehensive programme plan for 2025, with a delegation noting that its comments from the previous year had been taken into account in the current plan. The delegation indicated its intention to submit written amendments to the plan to reflect the final decisions of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the functioning of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

3. A delegation expressed the view that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction were indispensable for the coordination of principled action to ensure coherent, effective and consistent system-wide response strategies to meet the needs of affected people and strengthen resilience and adaptation, while minimizing duplication in addressing gaps in response efforts. Another delegation welcomed the critical leadership role performed by both Offices in response to humanitarian emergencies and expressed



the view that cohesive and efficient collaboration was essential to deliver a humanitarian response in complex environments. Delegations emphasized the need to strengthen the interlinkages between humanitarian development, peacebuilding and humanitarian needs.

4. A delegation expressed its broad support for the overall proposed strategy and planned results for 2025 outlined in the report, including the need to utilize a comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of global needs and challenges, and the need for an agile, adaptive humanitarian system. Another delegation expressed the view that ensuring well-coordinated and principled humanitarian assistance by the international community remained as important as ever. The same delegation emphasized the critical role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in coordinating response efforts by the international community to ensure that humanitarian assistance was delivered in a timely, coherent, coordinated and principled manner, as well as to facilitate the transition from emergency relief to rehabilitation and sustainable development.

5. A delegation expressed its appreciation for the active role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in organizing funding appeals, organizing and coordinating humanitarian assistance, ensuring rapid response to emergency humanitarian crises and providing support for the resolution of protracted crises. The delegation acknowledged the efforts of the United Nations to increase the efficiency of humanitarian assistance and improve the humanitarian funding mechanism. Another delegation acknowledged the performance and accomplishments of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2023. The delegation cited as an example the organization of responses through 27 country-specific and 9 regional plans, which had enabled it to reach 128 million people with some form of assistance, as noted in paragraph 27.31 of the report. The same delegation noted with concern the continued gap between humanitarian needs and resources for the Office, and welcomed efforts to broaden the donor base, including through engagement with the private sector.

6. A delegation underscored the importance of the full and unconditional implementation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols by Member States and emphasized its support for the safe and unimpeded humanitarian access of United Nations agencies to areas affected by conflict and humanitarian crises, in line with the humanitarian principles. The same delegation highlighted the increased pressure on humanitarian actors as a result of deepening global insecurity and the growing number of humanitarian emergencies. In that context, the delegation emphasized the importance of impartiality, neutrality, independence and the non-politicization of United Nations agencies. A delegation said that the United Nations had not been able to reach some affected populations during the previous year due to the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian access and opined that a United Nations agency or individuals acting on its behalf were being instrumentalized in situations of armed conflict. In that regard, the delegation raised serious concerns about the ability of the United Nations to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground objectively and accurately and highlighted the urgent need to enhance accountability and scrutiny across the humanitarian domain. The delegation expressed the view that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should undertake measures to ensure independent and accurate monitoring and proper assessment of the humanitarian situation in conflict areas.

7. A delegation welcomed the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in driving initiatives to strengthen data gathering and distribution with a view to enhancing crisis response. The delegation expressed the view that a methodologically sound evidence base better informed strategic decisions on capacity deployment, response times and resource availability. In that regard, the

delegation asked about the benefits accrued from focusing on an evidence-based approach; how the priorities of the Office had evolved in the face of the increased number of humanitarian crises globally and continued resource challenges; and what critical priorities the Office could not address due to those pressures and constraints. The same delegation welcomed the considered approach to anticipatory and early action efforts to prevent humanitarian crises, as well as resilience-building efforts to meaningfully empower and engage local actions and communities in recovery.

8. A delegation sought clarification regarding the coordination efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concerning humanitarian workers and asked whether the Office collaborated with the Department of Safety and Security on safety and security matters.

9. Appreciation was expressed for the references made to the integration of a gender perspective into the operational activities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the importance of women's participation in decision-making processes and the elaboration of public policies.

10. A delegation welcomed the references in the report to collaboration between humanitarian and development efforts (paras. 27.1 and 27.13). The delegation emphasized that economic growth and sustainable development were crucial for prevention and preparedness against natural disasters and other emergencies.

11. With regard to paragraph 27.2 of the report, a delegation noted the reference to the number of people that had experienced food insecurity in 2023 and sought clarification on the source of the data used. The delegation stated that relevant United Nations system organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, had not published such data or made corresponding conclusions recently. The same delegation acknowledged the increase since 2015 in the number of people experiencing food insecurity, but said that the report should cite other key factors that affected global food security, in addition to armed conflicts and climate change.

12. With regard to subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response, a delegation expressed support for the proposal of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to significantly increase cooperation with local communities and organizations. The delegation observed, however, that it was proposed that local actors would lead humanitarian responses (para. 27.38). The delegation sought clarification regarding the formulation of the paragraph and expressed the view that leadership functions belonged to humanitarian organizations, which should coordinate their activities with local authorities and national Governments.

13. A delegation requested information on the coordination between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the European Union, in particular the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. The same delegation referred to figure 27.II of the report, under result 3 (increased participation of local and national actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms), and sought clarification regarding the number of countries listed.

14. With regard to subprogramme 3, Emergency support services, a delegation referred to paragraphs 27.42, 27.43 and 27.52–27.54 of the report and noted that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs planned to enhance cooperation with the private sector. The delegation acknowledged the need for such cooperation but said that it was important to consider the profit-oriented nature of private businesses. The delegation expressed the view that working with the private sector in the humanitarian field should be based primarily on social responsibility and the

humanitarian imperative, as well as the humanitarian principles of assistance outlined in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#).

15. With regard to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, a delegation expressed support for the alignment of efforts across the United Nations system, including scaling up disaster risk reduction to help communities to plan and respond to disasters. The delegation recognized and expressed support for the vital role of local humanitarian actors in providing aid and assistance.

16. A delegation expressed appreciation for the important role performed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in building disaster reduction platforms at the global, regional and national levels, as well as in promoting international cooperation in disaster reduction.

17. With regard to paragraphs 27.96 and 27.98 of the report, a delegation observed the absence of agreed language with respect to references to countries in special situations and sought clarification as to why the report did not use language that was in line with the Sendai Framework and other agreed documents.

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **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 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly.**