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Items 139 and 140 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Programme budget implications of recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

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

Introduction

1. At its 17th meeting, on 14 June 2024, the Committee for Programme and Coordination adopted its draft report on programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 ([E/AC.51/2024/L.4/Add.7](#)). A statement of the programme budget implications resulting from paragraph 20 of the report on programme 7, Economic and social affairs, was before the Committee ([E/AC.51/2024/7](#)). The report of the Committee on its sixty-fourth session is contained in document [A/79/16](#).

2. Under the terms of paragraph 20 of the report on programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 ([E/AC.51/2024/L.4/Add.7](#)), the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly approve the insertion of a new paragraph 9.85 (k), reading:

Advance the elaboration of a specific response plan, aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries based on their specific challenges and diverse needs.

3. The Secretariat considers that the modification to insert a new paragraph 9.85 (k) into programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023 constitutes the Committee's interpretation on the operationalization of paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution [78/162](#) to give effect to the legislative intent of that resolution.

* [A/79/50](#).



4. In order to deliver on the additional strategy contained in new paragraph 9.85 (k), additional resources would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment, beginning in 2025.

5. Middle-income countries are those whose per capita incomes lie between the levels used to define low- and high-income countries, with thresholds established by the World Bank. As at 1 July 2023, the group comprised 108 countries with a gross national income per capita of between \$1,136 and \$13,845. Together, middle-income countries account for about 30 per cent of global gross domestic product and make up 75 per cent of the world's population, including 60 per cent of the world's poor. The middle-income countries classification overlaps with other country groupings. Currently, 22 least developed countries, 20 landlocked developing countries and 27 small island developing States are also classed as middle-income countries. As can be seen from this description, there is considerable heterogeneity across middle-income countries as well.

6. Pursuant to new paragraph 9.85 (k), the elaboration of a response plan that takes into account the full range of specific challenges and diverse needs of middle-income countries requires a detailed and complex exercise, involving consultations and discussions with different stakeholders and experts across the regions and the dimensions of sustainable development. This would require dedicated capacity to conduct a further developed and complex mapping exercise, supplementing the work done in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review surveys and presented in recent reports, including the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/78/224). Internally, within the United Nations system, there would be a need to coordinate with relevant United Nations entities at the global, regional and country levels, in particular the resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams in middle-income countries.

7. There would also be a need to liaise and coordinate with relevant national partners in more than 100 middle-income countries for information collection. In order to understand the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and the specific challenges and diverse needs of the different middle-income countries, a more detailed and in-depth analysis of such countries (in addition to what the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is currently doing) on a consistent basis would be required. The response plan itself would need to build on this knowledge base, extracting specific challenges and diverse needs along with coordinated actions to address them, taking into account the constantly evolving sustainable development context for middle-income countries.

8. The additional requirements that would arise include post and non-post resources under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, as detailed below.

9. It is estimated that three additional regular budget posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2) would be required under subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy, for the following functions:

(a) An Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) would have the following responsibilities:

- (i) Develop and manage the implementation of the system-wide response plan by planning and organizing the meetings of relevant stakeholders;
- (ii) Identify and engage relevant participants, compiling lists of projects and concept notes, producing and delivering targeted presentations at the meetings, ensuring the implementation plan of the meetings' decisions and coordinating the development process;

- (iii) Organize and prepare written outputs, such as draft background papers, sections of reports and studies, and inputs to publications on development cooperation with middle-income countries;
- (iv) Plan, organize and provide substantial servicing of expert group meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops, among other meetings, including identification and selection of participants, development of background documentation, and preparation of reports, documents, policy recommendations and analytical briefs based on the outcome of such meetings;
- (b) A Data Analyst (P-3) would have the following responsibilities:
- (i) Research, analyse and present information gathered from diverse sources, and collect and analyse data to identify trends or patterns and provide insights through graphs, charts, tables and reports using data visualization methods to enable data-driven planning, decision-making, presentation and reporting;
- (ii) Develop and implement databases, data collection systems, data analytics and other strategies that optimize statistical efficiency and quality with data from middle-income countries;
- (iii) Identify, analyse and interpret trends or patterns, using basic machine learning techniques and statistical methods to identify relevant features and variables in structured and unstructured sources of information and data, including big data sources;
- (c) An Associate Economic Affairs Officer (P-2) would have the following responsibilities:
- (i) Provide substantive backstopping to consultative and other meetings and conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries, including proposing agenda topics, identifying participants and preparing documents and presentations, among other responsibilities;
- (ii) Coordinate the organization and servicing of expert group meetings and regional consultations, including the logistical and administrative arrangements.
10. Consultants would be required to draft the background study on the interlinked sustainable development challenges and needs of middle-income countries and provide policy options for middle-income countries, extracting specific challenges and diverse needs along with coordinated actions to address them, taking into account the constantly evolving sustainable development context for middle-income countries; and to draft the background study and conduct data analysis on environmental, social and economic issues and challenges facing middle-income countries.
11. Experts would be required for technical expertise and provisions would be required for the travel of national experts for regional and global consultations in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.
12. Travel of staff would be required for one staff member to provide substantive support for each of the three regional consultations.
13. Contractual services would be required for a database or programming tools to continuously monitor the development situation in middle-income countries, and conducting regional and country-level macroeconomic analysis would require access to data services that provide reliable, up-to-date, high-frequency and comprehensive economic data (including quarterly national accounts and government sector, labour market and investment data); and core personal computing services and core enterprise applications for the proposed new posts.

14. Supplies and materials would be required to cover the costs of stationery and office supplies for the proposed new posts.

15. Furniture and equipment would cover the acquisition of office automation equipment and communications equipment and office furniture for the proposed new posts.

Budgetary implications

16. Details of the additional requirements for 2025 and 2026 onward are provided in table 1.

Table 1
**Additional resource requirements for section 9, Economic and social affairs
(before recosting)**

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026 onward</i>
Posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2) ^a	317 900	550 200
Consultants	60 000	60 000
Experts	60 000	60 000
Travel of staff	17 000	17 000
Contractual services	35 700	35 700
Supplies and materials	600	600
Furniture and equipment	11 400	–
Total	502 600	723 500

^a New posts are costed at 50 per cent, in line with the current methodology.

17. The budgetary implications for 2025 amount to \$502,600 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, as shown in table 2.

Table 2
Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>2025</i>
Section 9, Economic and social affairs	502 600
Section 36, Staff assessment	32 400
Total	535 000

18. Additional requirements of \$502,600 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, and \$32,400 under section 36, Staff assessment, would be required in 2025.

19. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2025 for the implementation of the activities that would be required under new paragraph 9.85 (k). At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2025 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2025.

Action requested of the General Assembly

20. **Should the General Assembly decide to endorse the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme plan for 2025 with the insertion of new paragraph 9.85 (k), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$502,600 would arise under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2025.**
21. **The General Assembly would be requested to approve an additional appropriation for 2025 in the amount of \$502,600 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, which would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund.**
22. **The General Assembly would also be requested to approve the establishment of three posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2), starting in 2025, under section 9, Economic and social affairs.**
23. **Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$32,400 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 and would require an additional appropriation by the General Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$32,400 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**
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