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Part II

Political affairs

Section 3

Political affairs

Special political missions

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms

Office of the Focal Point for Delisting

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2025

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed resource requirements for 2025 for the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.8](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 23 October 2024.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General proposed resource requirements for 2025 for 36 special political missions,¹ including estimates for the 14 special political missions under thematic cluster II. The Committee made comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic cluster II

¹ [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#) and [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#).



in its dedicated report (A/79/7/Add.3) and discussed issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to special political missions in its main report (A/79/7/Add.1).

3. In his present report (A/79/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.8), the Secretary-General proposes resource requirements for 2025 for the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting, which was established in accordance with Security Council resolution 2744 (2024), as a new special political mission under thematic cluster II.

II. Background and mandate

4. In its resolution 1730 (2006), the Security Council adopted a delisting procedure for individuals and entities placed on sanctions lists and requested the Secretary-General to establish, within the Secretariat (Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch), a focal point to receive delisting requests and to perform the tasks described in the delisting procedure. The mandate of the focal point was extended in subsequent resolutions 2083 (2012), 2161 (2014) and 2255 (2015), and was most recently strengthened in resolution 2744 (2024).

5. In its resolution 2744 (2024), the Security Council replaced the delisting procedure set out in its resolution 1730 (2006) and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General United Nations Security Council Sanctions Issues, to appoint a Focal Point on delisting within three months of the adoption of the resolution, in order to assume all the mandates of the original Focal Point established pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006). It also expanded the mandate of the original Focal Point to deal with cases of false or mistaken identity or confusion with individuals included on committee sanctions lists (*ibid.*, para. 1).

6. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the Focal Point is responsible for receiving and processing delisting requests from individuals, groups, undertakings or entities designated on the lists of the sanctions committees established by the Security Council, with the exception of the sanctions list of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, which falls under the purview of the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009) (*ibid.*, para. 2).

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Security Council, through its resolution 2744 (2024), had changed both the structure and mandate of the Focal Point for delisting by: (a) requesting the Secretary-General to appoint the Focal Point in consultation with the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General United Nations Security Council Sanctions Issues, rather than establishing it within the Secretariat; and (b) expanding the mandate with a more comprehensive delisting procedure. According to the Secretariat, the aim of the Council was to enhance due process significantly. The Committee was also informed that, given the changes introduced in resolution 2744 (2024), it was essential to ensure that the Focal Point's operational independence and institutional autonomy on delisting had equivalent status, support structures, budgetary independence and resources, through a separate special political mission under thematic cluster II, as the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009).

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the additional functions of the Focal Point deriving from resolution 2744 (2024), which were not previously mandated, included the following: (a) performing all the substantive tasks outlined in the revised delisting procedures detailed in annex I to resolution 2744

(2024), which entailed, among others, information-gathering and engaging with the petitioners and their legal representatives, relevant Member States, United Nations envoys, panels and groups of experts relevant to the sanctions regimes; (b) receiving and transmitting communications regarding false or mistaken identity cases with individuals on all sanctions committees lists; (c) proposing technical amendments of narrative summaries following the rejection of delisting requests; (d) notifying listed individuals or entities of any change in the status of their listings and, in the case of individuals, the country of which the person is a national; and (e) reporting to the Security Council, through the mandated biannual reports summarizing its activities, as well as to the relevant sanctions committees. As a result, the processing of delisting requests following the new delisting procedures annexed to resolution 2744 (2024) was expected to be more labour-intensive than under the previous procedure and would require the Focal Point to be acquainted with a vast array of complex issues pertaining to diverse sanctions regimes. Presently, there were 414 individuals and 104 entities listed by the sanctions committees under the Focal Point's purview. It was anticipated that the new Focal Point would receive delisting requests promptly, including those from current petitioners who had submitted their petitions before the adoption of resolution 2744 (2024) and petitioners whose requests had been rejected under the previous procedure.

III. Resource requirements for 2025

9. The proposed resource requirements for 2025 for the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting amount to \$793,100, net of staff assessment (see table 1).

Table 1
Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2023		2024	2025	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation ^a	Requirements	2025 vs. 2024 Increase/(decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)=(4)-(3)
Military and police personnel costs	—	—	—	—	—
Civilian personnel costs	—	—	—	407.9	407.9
Operational costs	—	—	—	385.2	385.2
Total (net of staff assessment)	—	—	—	793.1	793.1

^a For 2024, resources of \$65,600 will be committed under the unforeseen and extraordinary expenses certified by the Secretary-General related to the maintenance of peace and security, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 78/255.

10. It is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General that resources in the amount of \$65,600 for 2024 will be committed under the unforeseen and extraordinary expenses certified by the Secretary-General related to the maintenance of peace and security, under the terms of General Assembly resolution 78/255.

A. Comments and recommendations on staffing requirements

Table 2
Staffing resources

	International staff											National staff			United Nations Volunteers			Total
	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	FS	GS ^a	Subtotal	NPO	LL	Subtotal	International	National	Subtotal	
Approved 2024		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Proposed 2025	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Change	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS, General Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

^a Other level, unless otherwise stated.

11. For 2025, it is proposed that the Office of the Focal Point be constituted through the redeployment of one existing post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the establishment of two posts: Legal Officer (P-4) and Research Assistant (General Service (Other level)). Information on the functions of the posts is provided in paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General.

Redeployment

12. One post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) is proposed to be redeployed from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, for which resources were previously provided under subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, of section 3, Political affairs (A/79/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.8, para. 14 (a)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the post had been established in 2008 pursuant to the request of the Council, in its resolution 1730 (2006), that the Secretary-General establish, within the Secretariat (Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch), a focal point to receive delisting requests and perform delisting tasks. Given that this post has undertaken all related tasks since 2008, its redeployment would ensure continuity in the provision of substantial and procedural support to the Focal Point pursuant to the expanded mandate. Among other functions, the redeployed Political Affairs Officer would coordinate the work of the Focal Point with the senior secretaries of 13 sanctions committees and support engagement with Member States, relevant groups or panels of experts or monitoring teams, and relevant United Nations envoys. The proposed redeployment would result in a total reduction of \$229,700 (before recosting and net of staff assessment) in the 2025 proposed programme budget of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. This amount represented the annual resources devoted to delisting activities before the adoption of resolution 2744 (2024).

Establishment

13. One post of Legal Officer (P-4) is proposed for establishment to provide legal and substantive advice and support to the Focal Point (ibid., para. 14 (b)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the delisting procedures set out in resolution 2744 (2024) required more substantive support, including dedicated legal expertise, compared with the original delisting procedures annexed to resolution 1730 (2006). On the basis of the new requirements, the Legal Officer would, among other functions, assess delisting requests, decide on the suitability of the delisting requests and engage with petitioners and their legal representatives through all the

phases of the delisting process. The incumbent would also follow up, including through official communications, with relevant Member States, United Nations envoys and other stakeholders, and draft confidential comprehensive reports to the relevant sanctions committees. **The Advisory Committee, while noting the increased need for legal support under the expanded mandate of the Focal Point, is of the view that the functions of the Legal Officer could be performed at the P-3 level at this stage, taking into account also the role and responsibilities of the Political Affairs Officer (P-4) proposed for redeployment (see para. 12 above). Without prejudice to the independence of the Focal Point for Delisting, the Committee also encourages cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs, as appropriate. The Committee therefore recommends the establishment of a post of Legal Officer (P-3) in lieu of the proposed post of Legal Officer (P-4).**

14. One post of Research Assistant (General Service (Other level)) is proposed to be established in order to provide procedural and administrative support to the Focal Point, including researching, compiling and summarizing relevant material, tracking the progress of all delisting petitions to ensure compliance with mandated timelines, and performing secretarial tasks (*ibid.*, para. 14 (c)). The Advisory Committee recalls that the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution [1904 \(2009\)](#) has one post of Research Assistant (General Service (Other level)) (see also [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), para. 157). **The Advisory Committee, without prejudice to the independence of the Focal Point for Delisting, encourages coordination with the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution [1904 \(2009\)](#) to seek efficiencies and synergies in the performance of administrative duties and research support and trusts that the Secretary-General will report thereon in the next budget submission. The Committee therefore recommends against the proposed post of Research Assistant (General Service (Other level)) at this stage.**

15. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for 2025 for the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.

B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

16. The proposed resources for operational costs amount to \$385,200, comprising fees (\$213,000) and travel (\$28,400) of the Focal Point, official travel of staff (\$39,500) and other operational and logistical support requirements, including the rental of premises, rental of vehicles, communications and information technology, and other supplies, services and equipment (\$104,300) (see table 3).

Table 3

Operational costs

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2024	2025	Variance
	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>2025 vs. 2024</i>
<i>Category of expenditure</i>	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)=(2)-(1)</i>
Experts	—	241.4	241.4
Consultants and consulting services	—	—	—
Official travel	—	39.5	39.5
Facilities and infrastructure	—	61.1	61.1

Category of expenditure	2024	2025	Variance
	Appropriation	Requirements	2025 vs. 2024
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(2)-(1)
Ground transportation	–	1.0	1.0
Air operations	–	–	–
Marine operations	–	–	–
Communications and information technology	–	22.8	22.8
Medical	–	–	–
Special equipment	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	–	19.4	19.4
Quick-impact projects	–	–	–
Total	–	385.2	385.2

Experts

17. Resources amounting to \$241,400 would provide for the fee of the Focal Point for 12 months (\$213,000), calculated at an average monthly rate of \$11,154, plus a cost-of-living allowance of \$6,600 per month. The provision also covers the travel of the Focal Point (\$28,400) for interviews of delisting petitioners and/or government agencies. The Focal Point is based in New York. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in line with resolution 2744 (2024), by which the Security Council requested the Secretary-General appoint the Focal Point in consultation with the Informal Working Group of the Security Council on General United Nations Security Council Sanctions Issues, the Focal Point would not be a Secretariat staff member and would instead have an appointment process similar to that of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009). The process is ongoing, and the appointment of the Focal Point is expected before the end of 2024, subject to the availability of the Informal Working Group.

Official travel

18. Proposed requirements in the amount of \$39,500 would provide for the official travel of staff to support the work and the mandate of the Focal Point, as well as the travel of interpreters from the United Nations Office at Geneva, whenever necessary. Upon enquiry the Advisory Committee was informed that, on the basis of the experience of the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009), whose procedures are similar to the new delisting procedures under resolution 2744 (2024), it is anticipated that the Focal Point and some supporting staff would travel to regions where listed individuals and entities are located. It is also expected that the Focal Point would conduct outreach activities on the newly established procedures. The Committee was further informed that, given the quasi-judicial nature of interviews to be conducted by the Focal Point, the Secretariat might need to arrange for interpreters to travel from the United Nations Office at Geneva, should local interpretation services not meet the necessary standards of confidentiality and quality. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting to seek efficiencies by combining trips and relying on local interpreters to the maximum extent possible.**

19. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 15 and 18 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs for 2025 for the Office of the Focal Point for Delisting.**