



# General Assembly

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**Fifth Committee**

Agenda items 139 and 98

**Proposed programme budget for 2025**

**General and complete disarmament**

## **Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects**

### **Programme budget implications of draft resolution**

[A/C.1/79/L.68/Rev.1](#)

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

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its 28th meeting, on 1 November 2024, the First Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.68/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 172 to 2, with 3 abstentions. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee ([A/C.1/79/L.83](#)).

#### **II. Mandate contained in the draft resolution**

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.68/Rev.1](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to convene a qualified group of up to 25 experts, which is representative, based on the principle of equitable geographic distribution and giving due regard to gender balance, to prepare a new comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones, aimed at assessing the current status of existing and potential nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as examining options and recommendations towards strengthening existing zones and the possible establishment of new zones, including in the Middle East;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to take the administrative measures necessary for the establishment of the qualified group of experts during the eightieth session of the General Assembly, including through a wide call for nominations from



Member States, to work in New York for a period of three weeks divided into three meetings, with the possibility of flexible arrangements, as well as two 2-day informal consultative meetings, open-ended so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views with the Chair of the group;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issues that belong to the scope of the aforementioned study and to submit a report thereon before the end of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, regional organizations, organizations of the United Nations system with a special competence in disarmament and non-proliferation, disarmament and peace-related institutes and relevant non-governmental organizations to communicate their views on the issues that belong to the scope of the aforementioned study and submit a report thereon before the end of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to transmit the study prepared by the group of qualified experts to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session.

### **III. Relationship between the mandate contained in the draft resolution and the proposed programme budget for 2025**

3. The mandate contained in draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.68/Rev.1](#) requires additional deliverables and activities under the following programme plans of the proposed programme budget for 2025:

(a) Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#));

(b) Programme 3, Disarmament ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#));

(c) Programme 25, Management and support services ([A/79/6 \(Sect. 29C\)](#)).

### **IV. Deliverables and activities required to implement the mandate contained in the draft resolution**

4. Pursuant to the mandate contained in operative paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that a qualified group of up to 25 experts would be convened by the Secretary-General to prepare a new comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones. It is also envisaged that the Secretary-General would take the administrative measures necessary for the establishment of the qualified group of experts during the eightieth session of the General Assembly, including through a wide call for nominations from Member States, to work in New York for a period of three weeks divided into three different meetings, with the possibility of flexible arrangements, as well as two 2-day informal consultative meetings, open-ended so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views with the Chair of the qualified group of experts. The Secretary-General would seek the views of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, regional organizations, organizations of the United Nations system with a special competence in disarmament and non-proliferation, disarmament and peace-related institutes and relevant non-governmental organizations to communicate their views on the issues that belong to the scope of the aforementioned study and submit a report thereon before the end of the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly. It is further envisaged that the Secretary-General would transmit the study prepared by the group of qualified experts to the Assembly at its eighty-first session.

5. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate in support of the meetings of the qualified group of experts would require interpretation in all six languages for one 5-day session (comprising 10 meetings) in New York in 2025 and two 5-day sessions (comprising 20 meetings) in New York in 2026. With regard to documentation services, the requirements of translation in all six languages of the United Nations of one pre-session document with a word count of 20,000 words in 2025 and one pre-session document with a word count of 50,000 words in 2026 would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department.

6. For the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the implementation of the mandate would require the provision for the travel costs for up to 25 experts, including the Chair, to work in New York for a period of three weeks divided into three different meetings, as well for the travel costs of the Chair to attend two 2-day informal consultative meetings also in New York, and the presentation of the study to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session. The implementation of the mandate would also require a consultant to provide substantive support to the Chair and expert group during all the meetings in New York, including through the provision of technical advice on issues discussed therein and through the monitoring of substantive discussions, and provide assistance in drafting the comprehensive study from the start of the process to the transmission of the study to the Assembly at its eighty-first session. Furthermore, the implementation of the mandate would also require a general temporary assistance position (General Service (Other level)) to administer the travel of up to 25 experts.

7. For the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the implementation of the mandate would require information technology servicing during one 5-day session (comprising 10 meetings) and one 2-day session of informal consultative meetings (comprising 4 meetings) in New York in 2025 and two 5-day sessions (comprising 20 meetings) and one 2-day session of informal consultative meetings (comprising 4 meetings) in New York in 2026.

8. In accordance with established practices, the dates of the meetings of the qualified group of experts and the informal consultative meetings would be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

## V. Budgetary implications

### A. Conference-servicing requirements

9. Details of the additional conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1

#### **Additional resource requirements for conference services**

(United States dollars)

	2025	2026
<b>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</b>		
Other staff costs		
Interpretation services	79 500	159 000
Documentation services	57 600	143 800

	2025	2026
<b>Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology</b>		
Contractual services		
Technical and conference services	20 200	34 700
<b>Total</b>	<b>157 300</b>	<b>337 500</b>

## B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

10. Details of the additional non-conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 2.

Table 2

### Additional resource requirements for non-conference services

(United States dollars)

	2025	2026
<b>Section 4, Disarmament</b>		
Other staff costs	20 500	34 100
Experts	159 100	267 100
Consultants	103 700	156 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>283 300</b>	<b>457 400</b>

11. An additional amount of \$21,100 would be required in 2025 under section 36, Staff assessment.

12. The requirements for 2026 and subsequent years would be reflected under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for the respective budget period:

- (a) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management;
- (b) Section 4, Disarmament;
- (c) Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology;
- (d) Section 36, Staff assessment.

## VI. Summary of resource requirements

13. The budgetary implications for 2025 amount to \$461,700, as shown in table 3.

Table 3

### Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

	2025	2026
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	137 100	302 800
Section 4, Disarmament	283 300	457 400

	2025	2026
Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology	20 200	34 700
Section 36, Staff assessment	21 100	43 900
<b>Total, including staff assessment</b>	<b>461 700</b>	<b>838 800</b>

## VII. Potential for absorption during 2025

14. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2025 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution. 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 during 2025. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2025.

## VIII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

15. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.1/79/L.68/Rev.1](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$440,600 would arise under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2025:

- (a) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$137,100);
- (b) Section 4, Disarmament (\$283,300);
- (c) Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology (\$20,200).

16. The total amount of \$440,600 would require an additional appropriation for 2025 to be approved by the General Assembly and, accordingly, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund.

17. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$21,100 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2025 and require an additional appropriation by the General Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$21,100 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.