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Agenda items 123 and 139

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of Israel in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, other international organizations and third states

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/79/L.28](#)

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

I. Mandate contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution [A/79/L.28](#), the General Assembly would decide, in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations, to request the International Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 65 of the Statute of the Court, on a priority basis and with the utmost urgency, to render an advisory opinion on the following question, considering the rules and principles of international law, as regards in particular the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, privileges and immunities applicable under international law for international organizations and states, relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, the advisory opinion of the Court of 9 July 2004 and the advisory opinion of the Court of 19 July 2024, in which the Court reaffirmed the duty of an occupying Power to administer occupied territory for the benefit of the local population and affirmed that Israel is not entitled to sovereignty over or to exercise sovereign powers in any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory on account of its occupation:

(a) What are the obligations of Israel, as an occupying Power and a member of the United Nations, in relation to the presence and activities of the United Nations, its agencies and bodies, other international organizations and third States, in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the unhindered provision of



urgently needed supplies essential to the survival of the Palestinian civilian population as well as of basic services and humanitarian and development assistance throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, for the benefit of the Palestinian civilian population, and in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

II. Relationship between the mandate contained in the draft resolution and the proposed programme budget for 2025

2. The mandate contained in draft resolution [A/79/L.28](#) requires additional deliverables and activities under section 7, International Court of Justice ([A/79/6 \(Sect.7\)](#)) of the proposed programme budget for 2025.

III. Deliverables and activities required to implement the mandate contained in the draft resolution

3. Pursuant to the mandate contained in operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the International Court of Justice would render an advisory opinion on the questions reflected in the operative paragraph.

4. For the International Court of Justice, the implementation of the mandate would require additional requirements for 2025 for temporary assistance, notably translators, interpreters and text-processing assistants, to provide support during the public hearings, including written and oral proceedings with the participation of States and intergovernmental organizations and private meetings of the Court, mainly for deliberation by the judges. Provisions would also be required for additional security support during the hearings and for the external translation and printing of documents for dissemination to all States Members of the United Nations. In addition, resources would be required for the rental of audiovisual equipment for the hearings and to set up a press room, as well as supplies for internal reproduction, office supplies and photographs during the hearings.

IV. Budgetary implications

5. Details of the additional requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1
Additional resource requirements
(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2025</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2026</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2027</i>	<i>Total additional requirements 2025–2027</i>
Section 7, International Court of Justice				
Other staff costs				
Interpretation services	90 000	25 000	–	115 000
Documentation services	68 600	10 600	–	79 200
Contractual services				
External printing	–	21 200	95 400	116 600
External translation	80 000	–	–	80 000
Other services	4 500	12 000	–	16 500

<i>Budget section</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2025</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2026</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2027</i>	<i>Total additional requirements 2025–2027</i>
General operating expenses				
Rental of furniture and equipment	31 800	–	–	31 800
Security services	20 000	–	–	20 000
Supplies and materials	4 000	–	–	4 000
Total	298 900	68 800	95 400	463 100

6. An additional amount of \$19,000 would be required in 2025 under section 36, Staff assessment.

7. There would be requirements in 2026 for temporary assistance for meetings for the preparation of the volume in the pleadings series and for the printing of the advisory opinion and judges' declarations and opinions for the reports of the International Court of Justice, and in 2027 for the printing of volumes in the pleading series (advisory opinion and annexes, written proceedings and oral proceedings). The requirements for 2026 and 2027, in the amounts of \$68,800 and \$95,400, respectively, would be reflected under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the proposed programme budgets for the respective budget period.

V. Summary of resource requirements

8. The budgetary implications for 2025 amount to \$317,900, as shown in table 2.

Table 2

Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

	<i>Additional requirements 2025</i>
Section 7, International Court of Justice	298 900
Section 36, Staff assessment	19 000
Total, including staff assessment	317 900

VI. Potential for absorption during 2025

9. 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 section 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.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/79/L.28](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$298,900 would arise under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the proposed programme budget for 2025. The total amount of \$298,900 would require an additional appropriation for 2025 to

be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund.

11. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$19,000 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 \$19,000 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.
