



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2024

Original: English

Seventy-ninth session
Agenda items 139 and 108

Proposed programme budget for 2025

**Countering the use of information and communications
technologies for criminal purposes**

United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes

**Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained
in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a
Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use
of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal
Purposes on its reconvened concluding session ([A/78/986](#)),
transmitted to the General Assembly in document [A/79/196](#), as
amended by draft proposal [A/C.3/79/L.22](#)**

**Thirty-sixth 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 statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/79/20](#)), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes on its reconvened concluding session ([A/78/986](#)), transmitted to the General Assembly in document [A/79/196](#), as amended by draft proposal [A/C.3/79/L.22](#). During its consideration of the statement, the Committee was provided with



additional information and clarifications, concluding with written responses received on 30 November 2024.

2. It is indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement of the Secretary-General that, under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 49 of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/78/986) and transmitted to the General Assembly in document A/79/196, the Assembly would:

(a) Adopt the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes annexed to the resolution, and open it for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 31 December 2026;

(b) Decide that, until the Conference of the States Parties to be established pursuant to the Convention decides otherwise, the account referred to in article 56 of the Convention will be operated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and encourage Member States to begin making adequate voluntary contributions to the above-mentioned account for the provision to developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the technical assistance that they might require to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Convention;

(c) Also decide that the Ad Hoc Committee shall continue its work, mutatis mutandis, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 74/247 and 75/282, with a view to negotiating a draft protocol supplementary to the Convention, addressing, inter alia, additional criminal offences as appropriate, and that, for that purpose, two sessions of a duration of 10 days each, with the first session taking place two years after the adoption of the Convention by the Assembly and the second session in the following calendar year, in Vienna and New York, respectively, shall be convened for the purpose of submitting the outcomes to the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, for its consideration and further action, in accordance with articles 57, paragraph 5 (g), 61 and 62 of the Convention;

(d) Further decide that the Committee will complete its tasks arising from the negotiation of the Convention by holding a session, mutatis mutandis, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 74/247 and 75/282, of a duration of up to five days in Vienna, one year after the adoption of the Convention, in order to prepare the draft text of the rules of procedure of the Conference and of other rules described in article 57 of the Convention, which will be submitted to the Conference for consideration at its first session;

(e) Request the Conference to keep abreast of technological developments in the area of cybercrime, to make recommendations regarding appropriate action in that regard, to promote regional and international meetings of national cybercrime focal points for the exchange of experiences, challenges and good practices, and to ensure synergies with relevant work carried out by other competent intergovernmental bodies;

(f) Request the Secretary-General to designate UNODC to serve as the secretariat for and under the direction of the Conference, in accordance with article 58 of the Convention;

(g) Also request the Secretary-General to provide UNODC with the resources necessary to enable it to promote in an effective manner the rapid entry into force of the Convention and to discharge the functions of secretariat of the Conference, and to support the Committee in its work pursuant to paragraph 2 (c) and (d) above;

(h) Further request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the activities undertaken to promote the rapid entry into force of the Convention for submission to the Assembly at its eightieth session.

3. It is further indicated in paragraph 3 of the statement of the Secretary-General that, should the draft proposal contained in document [A/C.3/79/L.22](#) be adopted, operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution contained in document [A/78/986](#) would be amended to adopt the Convention and “[open] it for signature at Hanoi in 2025 and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 31 December 2026”. The draft proposal and the draft resolution were adopted by the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its 48th meeting, on 11 November 2024 ([A/C.5/79/20](#), para. 1).

II. Resource requirements

4. It is indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/79/20](#)) that the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime would require additional deliverables under the following sections of the programme budget from 2025 onward: section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, section 28, Global communications, section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology, section 29F, Administration, Vienna, and section 34, Safety and security. Activities by which the requests would be implemented are outlined in paragraphs 5–12 of the statement, and tables 1 and 2 of the statement provide an overview of the associated conference-servicing and non-conference-servicing requirements amounting to a total of \$2,569,000, net of staff assessment, in 2025.

Post resources

5. For the implementation of operative paragraphs 4, 9 and 10 of the draft resolution, it is indicated that UNODC would serve as the secretariat for the Convention and would perform the associated functions requested by the General Assembly, including supporting the Ad Hoc Committee and, once established, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. The Secretary-General accordingly proposes the establishment of 23 posts (1 P-5, 4 P-4, 9 P-3, 1 P-2 and 8 General Service (Other level)) effective 1 January 2025 and 2 posts (1 D-1 and 1 P-5) effective 1 January 2027, under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice. It is indicated that the posts would provide for a decentralized team of legal, policy and cybercrime experts based mainly in Vienna and with a policy and liaison capacity in New York, as well as teams located in six regional hubs (Egypt, Kenya, Panama, Senegal, Thailand and Türkiye) to support Member States in the ratification of the Convention (*ibid.*, para. 8 and annex).

6. The Advisory Committee, upon request, was provided with a tentative organizational chart of the proposed structure of the requested posts (see annex). It was indicated to the Committee that, at the outset, in 2025, a Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P-5, post “i”) as Chief, Cybercrime and Technology Section, with administrative support provided by a Team Assistant (General Service (Other level)), would coordinate a team comprising two main parts:

(a) Intergovernmental negotiations and secretariat services, led by a team leader at the P-4 level (post “ii”), and with the team composition and assignment of duties designed in a similar fashion to the team overseeing the Ad Hoc Committee, with duties distributed to one P-3, one P-2 and one General Service (Other level) posts;

(b) Ratification and support for implementation, led by a team leader at the P-4 level (post “iii”), overseeing the field-based (posts “ix” and “xiii”) and Vienna-based (posts “viii” and “vi”) teams supporting the process of ratification and preparing for implementation.

7. In addition, two posts of a cross-cutting nature, namely one P-4 based in New York and one P-4 based in Vienna, would, respectively, serve as a liaison for New York-based intergovernmental cyber-related mechanisms and entities on cybercrime, cybersecurity and digital developments, in addition to carrying out other functions (post “iv”), and help keep abreast of technological developments in cybercrime as well as new and emerging technologies and make recommendations to Member States and the Conference of the States Parties in those areas (post “v”). Upon the entry into force of the Convention, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention would be established as a permanent mechanism and its first session would take place within one year, giving rise to additional managerial requirements. As such, the Secretariat proposes to establish, upon entry into force of the Convention or effective 1 January 2027, one post of Chief of Service (D-1, post “xiv”) to serve as the Secretary of the Conference of the States Parties, and one post of Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P-5, post “xv”) to coordinate all related conference services.

8. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the requested posts were expected to perform tasks and mandates of a continuous nature. Although certain mandated tasks were time-bound, namely the negotiations for the rules of procedure and a protocol, the posts engaged therein would continue to be required to perform other functions, mainly related to the functioning of the related intergovernmental bodies. In this regard, the Committee was informed that to support the Ad Hoc Committee negotiating the Convention, five general temporary assistance positions had been previously created and used to service a temporary process of finite duration. Once the Convention is adopted, and upon conclusion of a protocol, the Ad Hoc Committee would be overtaken by the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and, as a result, no general temporary assistance positions were being presently requested.

9. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Conference of the States Parties would be expected, according to Member States and their statements during the negotiation process, to function exactly as the mechanisms of the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Committee was further informed that the programme budget implications of the draft resolution and the draft Convention had been prepared taking into consideration UNODC past practice in providing secretariat services to treaty functions and mechanisms, as well as supporting States parties in meeting their obligations under those treaties.

10. The Advisory Committee, upon request, was provided with a table of UNODC posts currently servicing the existing conventions and treaties covered by the Office, as outlined below.

Current staff composition of secretariats of treaties under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

| <i>Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board (drug control conventions)</i> | | <i>Secretariat to the Governing Bodies (partially drug control)</i> | | <i>Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch</i> | | <i>Corruption and Economic Crime Branch</i> | |
|--|-----------|---|-----------|---|------------|---|-----------|
| <i>RB</i> | <i>XB</i> | <i>RB</i> | <i>XB</i> | <i>RB</i> | <i>XB</i> | <i>RB</i> | <i>XB</i> |
| 1 D-1 | 2 P-5 | 1 D-1 | 1 P-4 | 1 D-2 | 3 P-5 | 1 D-1 | 1 P-5 |
| 2 P-5 | 4 P-4 | 2 P-4 | 2 P-3 | 1 D-1 | 13 P-4 | 2 P-5 | 9 P-4 |
| 3 P-4 | 1 P-3 | 1 P-3 | 1 GS (OL) | 2 P-5 | 17 P-3 | 5 P-4 | 10 P-3 |
| 9 P-3 | 1 P-2 | 1 P-2 | | 6 P-4 | 2 GS (PL) | 4 P-3 | 8 GS (OL) |
| 4 P-2 | 8 GS (OL) | 1 GS (PL) | | 2 P-3 | 17 GS (OL) | 4 P-2 | |
| 1 GS (PL) | | 4 GS (OL) | | 1 P-2 | | 2 GS (OL) | |
| 8 GS (OL) | | | | 5 GS (OL) | | | |
| Total: 44 posts | | Total: 13 posts | | Total: 70 posts | | Total: 46 posts | |

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); RB, regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary.

11. The Advisory Committee was also informed that 25 extrabudgetary posts (3 P-4, 9 P-3, 2 P-2, 3 National Professional Officer and 8 General Service (Other level)) were currently carrying out specific project work related to cybercrime at UNODC, in addition to one P-5 post funded by the regular budget partially working on cybercrime issues. The Committee notes that the location of the extrabudgetary posts covers three of the six regional hubs included in the statement of the Secretary-General, namely Panama, Senegal and Thailand (see para. 5 above). **The Advisory Committee trusts that, to the extent possible, existing in-house capacity, both in the field and using centralized capacity available in Vienna, should be used to provide support in the entry into force and servicing of the Convention.**

12. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the requirements for facilitating the adoption of the Convention and its ongoing servicing would be implemented in two phases, with the first focusing on promoting the Convention's rapid entry into force and preparing for the first session of the Conference of the States Parties, and with the second beginning after entry into force, supporting intergovernmental meetings, operational mechanisms and ongoing ratification efforts.

13. **Given the inherent variability in projections, the Advisory Committee considers it prudent to have a staged approach to the deployment of additional resources which would be aligned with progress made on the implementation of the Convention.**

14. **The Advisory Committee also trusts, particularly with regard to the envisioned regional support activities, that further assessments will be made of the resource requirements based on actual workload experienced and requests for support from Member States. Furthermore, the Committee considers that efficiencies could be found in using existing in-house capacity within UNODC, including the already established treaty secretariats and cybercrime-related posts, to support the entry into force and the servicing of the Convention.**

15. **The Advisory Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the following posts at this stage: one post of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P-4), to be based in Vienna (post "ii"); one post of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P-3), to be based in Vienna (post "vii"); and six posts of Team Assistant (General Service (Other level)), to be based in**

the regional hubs (posts “xiii”). All related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly. The Advisory Committee notes that proposals for the establishment of posts in the 2027 budget period should be considered in line with established budgetary procedures for resource requirements relating to that period.

Non-post resources

16. Related to the proposed establishment of posts (see para. 5 above), additional resources would also be needed under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, to cover non-post requirements under other staff costs, consultants, experts, travel of representatives, travel of staff, contractual services, general operating expenses and furniture and equipment. For the implementation of operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 6 of his statement that a report would be prepared on the promotion of the rapid entry into force of the draft Convention, for submission to the General Assembly at its eightieth session. As such, additional resources under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would provide for documentation and interpretation services to implement the request (A/C.5/79/20, para. 7). Further resource requirements proposed under section 29F, Administration, Vienna, would provide for grants and contributions for office space costs for the 12 posts proposed to be established in Vienna effective 1 January 2025 and 1 January 2027 (ibid., para. 10). Under section 34, Safety and security, additional resources would cover the provision of safety and security services during the meetings in Vienna and New York (ibid., para. 12). Additional resources under sections 28, Global communications, and 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology, would provide for contractual services to cover non-recurrent costs of, respectively, webcasting of meetings and information technology conference services, in New York (ibid., paras. 9 and 11).

III. Conclusion

17. The Secretary-General indicates that no provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2025 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution, and there is no possibility to absorb the related requirements (ibid., para. 19). In respect of requirements for the opening of the Convention for signature, it is indicated that, pursuant to the confirmation of the host country, the change of the venue for the opening of the Convention for signature to Hanoi in accordance with the provisions of draft proposal A/C.3/79/L.22 would not have any budgetary implications (ibid., para. 15).

18. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 49 of A/78/986 and transmitted in document A/79/196 as amended by draft proposal A/C.3/79/L.22, the required activities would have the following budgetary implications in 2025, to be provided through an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,569,000 and representing a potential charge against the contingency fund:

(a) A total of \$69,800 for conference-servicing requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for documentation services

(b) A total of \$2,499,200 for non-conference-servicing requirements, as follows:

(i) Under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism preventions and criminal justice, a total of \$2,455,200, which would cover

requirements under posts (\$1,698,700), experts (\$23,900), travel of representatives (\$160,200), travel of staff (\$255,500), contractual services (\$221,000), general operating expenses (\$37,500), and furniture and equipment (\$58,400);

(ii) Under section 29F, Administration, Vienna, grants and contributions (\$44,000).

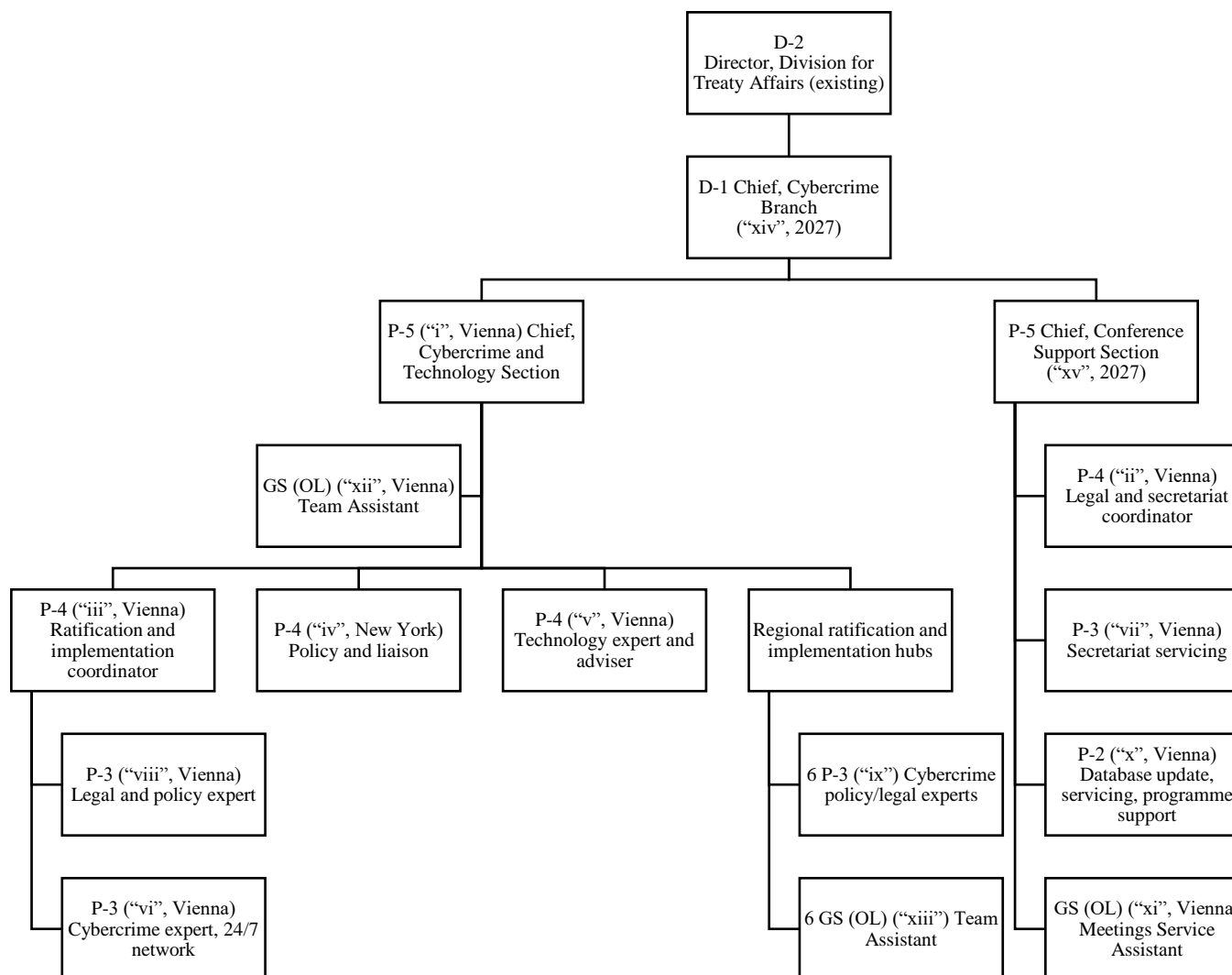
19. An additional requirement of \$238,300 would also be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2025, to be offset by an equivalent increase under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

20. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 15 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 49 of document A/78/986 and transmitted in document A/79/196, as amended by draft proposal A/C.3/79/L.22, additional resource requirements in the amount of \$2,192,400, comprising \$69,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, \$2,087,400 under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, and \$35,200 under section 29F, Administration, Vienna, would arise under the proposed programme budget for 2025. The amount of \$2,192,400 would require an additional appropriation for 2025 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund.**

21. The General Assembly would also approve the establishment of 15 posts (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 8 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level)) effective 1 January 2025 under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice.

22. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$178,600 would also 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 amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Tentative organizational chart of the proposed structure of requested posts



Note: Before 2027, all positions would report directly to the Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, through the Chief, Cybercrime and Technology Section (P-5). Thereafter, the secretariat servicing team would have a dedicated section and all would report to the Chief, Cybercrime Branch (D-1).

Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service, Other level.