



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee for Programme and Coordination

Sixty-fifth session

New York, 12 May–13 June 2025

### Draft report

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#### Addendum

### Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2026

(Item 3 (a))

#### Programme 28 Safety and security

1. At its 16th meeting, on 21 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 34\)](#)).

#### Discussion

2. Delegations thanked the Department of Safety and Security for the presentation of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and expressed appreciation and support for the Department's committed work and role in enabling United Nations system entities to implement their programme activities, both at Headquarters and in the field, while keeping United Nations personnel safe.

3. Appreciation was also expressed for the Department's staff working in complex and difficult operational environments, and, in that regard, the Department's emphasis on resilience and its efforts to draw on rapidly deployable assets to respond to sudden or large-scale crises were welcomed.

4. A delegation welcomed the Department's leadership role in the Inter-Agency Security Management Network and its work to implement recommendations arising from the in-depth review of the United Nations security management system. With regard to participation in the system, another delegation enquired about the justification for excluding certain United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), from



the framework of the system. Clarification was sought on the operational implications that would arise when entities operated outside the unified security structure, particularly in high-risk environments.

5. The Department was also commended for its efforts to modernize towards a security risk management-based approach, given how inextricably linked programming and safety and security were in humanitarian operations. A question was raised as to what criteria the Department was using to prioritize delivery of security services in the field in order to enable the continued delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance where it mattered most.

6. A delegation emphasized that the presence and effective functioning of United Nations personnel in its region depended on mutual trust, professionalism and shared responsibility for safety and accountability. In that regard, it emphasized the high importance of protecting the reputation of the United Nations and upholding its integrity. The delegation expressed concerns regarding allegations of misuse and abuse of UNRWA facilities and raised questions as to what actions had been taken to address the situation and how the Department was addressing risks posed to the integrity and safety of the Organization.

7. With regard to accountability and contextual reporting of security incidents, a question was asked as to whether the Department had a mechanism to cross-reference or vet personnel affected by security incidents with available information regarding their potential involvement in unlawful or non-neutral activities, particularly when such involvement might have contributed to the incident.

8. A delegation recognized the Department's efforts to improve its information and knowledge management systems and encouraged the use of public and transparent risk incident systems in cooperation with regional and non-governmental organization partners. The delegation also expressed support for using all tools available to promote accountability, consistent with international law, for those responsible for unlawful attacks on medical and humanitarian personnel.

9. Questions were raised on how the Department and the United Nations could improve cybersecurity programmes, what management metrics Member States would be best advised to consider when looking at improving and increasing the effectiveness of safety and security, and whether success meant that a security incident did not occur.

10. With regard to racism, a delegation requested information on the efforts made, including concrete measures taken to counter racism and racial discrimination, and the results achieved.

11. With regard to paragraph 34.5, the Department's implementation of a digital transformation project was welcomed, with the expectation that it would help enhance the Department's analysis and reporting.

12. Regarding paragraph 34.7, on the Department's aspiration to achieve gender parity, a delegation expressed the hope that when implementing that strategy, the actual conditions on the ground would be considered, especially in high-risk areas.

13. Sharing the Department's concern about ongoing high security risks, especially during the drawdown period of peacekeeping operations, a delegation expressed support for the assumption set out in paragraph 34.10 regarding the need for active engagement with Member States during such periods. In that regard, the delegation welcomed the objective of ensuring adequate extrabudgetary resources to mount a swift response to crisis situations.

14. With regard to subprogramme 1, Security and safety services, delegations expressed support for the introduction of digital badges, a contemporary and convenient solution that had already proved its worth in the United Nations Office at Geneva, as described in paragraph 34.19. A delegation called for the roll-out of digital badges in New York, provided that doing so would not require additional resources. Another delegation, while recognizing the benefits of digital badges, pointed out the risks of false or unrecognized documents being used to gain access to United Nations premises, and, in that regard, sought clarifications on measures taken by the Secretariat to prevent such risks.

15. With regard to paragraph 34.25, appreciation was expressed for the Department's efforts to ensure safe access for persons with disabilities.

16. Regarding paragraph 34.39, a delegation welcomed the use of data-informed approaches and commended the Department for drawing effectively on the lessons learned.

17. Finally, with regard to subprogramme 3, Partnerships and specialized support, the Department was commended for its clear focus on specialized training programmes, operational planning improvements, and the alignment of United Nations protection services with global best practice. Additional information was sought on the timelines or targets for the provision of the training programmes mentioned in paragraph 34.52.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

18. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 28, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning" at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**

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