



Sixty-ninth session**Fifth Committee**

Agenda items 132 and 74 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**Oceans and the law of the sea**

Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#)

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

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 267 of draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#), the General Assembly would recall its decision that, with the approval of the Bureau, the draft assessment should be transmitted for consideration by the Working Group, that the assessment should be available on the website of the Regular Process in the working language of the Group of Experts, that the Secretary-General should endeavour to translate the assessment into all other official languages, subject to the availability of resources in the voluntary trust fund for the purposes of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process, and also recall its decision that the summary of the first global integrated marine assessment should be submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, to be issued as a document of the General Assembly for its final approval by the Assembly at its seventieth session.

II. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

2. The requested activities relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and section 2, General



Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to operative paragraph 267 of the draft resolution, the request for documentation would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one post-session document of 27,500 words in all six languages. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$161,800 for documentation services in 2015.

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

4. To implement the additional workload, there would be additional conference-servicing requirements of \$161,800 for 2015 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2014-2015 and beyond

5. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the implementation of the activities requested under operative paragraph 267 of the draft resolution. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the section of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary for the additional resources in the amount of \$161,800 to be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2014-2015.

VI. Contingency fund

6. It may be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#), it is estimated that an additional appropriation of \$161,800 would be required. It is

anticipated that those requirements could not be met from within the resources of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

8. Accordingly, the General Assembly is requested to approve an additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund, in the amount of \$161,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.
