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**Sixty-ninth session**

Agenda items 128 and 132

**Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him****Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015****Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him****Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/69/L.42****Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions****I. Introduction**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advanced version of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/69/L.42 \(A/C.5/69/14\)](#). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 15 December 2014.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of draft resolution [A/69/L.42](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to appoint an independent panel of experts to examine new information and to assess its probative value;

(b) Encourage Member States to release any relevant records in their possession and to provide to the Secretary-General relevant information related to the death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him;



(c) Request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the progress made.

## **II. Composition and functions of the panel**

3. In paragraph 2 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the tasks of the independent panel are foreseen as follows:

(a) To review the report of the Commission of Jurists on the Inquiry into the Death of Dag Hammarskjöld (A/68/800, annex) and the information relied on by the Commission in its report, together with any relevant records and information that might be provided by Member States;

(b) If necessary and appropriate, to interview witnesses, including expert witnesses, who provided new information contained in that documentation;

(c) If necessary and appropriate, to visit the site where the incident occurred;

(d) To produce a report, to include: (i) findings on what new information is contained in the documentation presented by the Hammarskjöld Commission and provided by Member States; (ii) an assessment of the probative value of that new information for the purpose of identifying the cause or causes of the incident and determining its attribution to any individual or entity; and (iii) new statements from any witnesses who were interviewed by the panel and new information provided by Member States, to be affixed as appendices.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the task under paragraph 3 (a) above referred to a review and analysis of existing documentation in order to identify new aspects, without revising the report of the Hammarskjöld Commission. The Committee was also informed that it was envisaged that the panel would commence its work in March or April 2015 and that the work was expected to last for 10 weeks. The panel would be located in New York. In respect of the expertise of the panel members, the Committee was further informed that it was anticipated that the panel would include a range of expertise, with one member experienced in the gathering of evidence, another in the review of this evidence, such as a prosecutorial investigator, and a third with experience in investigating air crashes. The Committee was informed that in the selection of the panel members, the Organization's general principles regarding geographical distribution would be followed, while taking into account the required technical expertise.

## **III. Resource requirements**

5. In his statement, the Secretary-General states that the estimated cost of the independent panel would amount to \$400,100, including for consultants, travel and other operational requirements, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (see also para. 7 below). In addition, conference-servicing requirements of \$50,900 in 2015 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

6. According to the statement, no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the implementation of these activities and it is not possible to identify activities within the sections concerned of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. The Secretary-General states that it is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of \$451,000 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2014-2015. The Secretary-General indicates 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. He further states that, under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed 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 they would be deferred to a later biennium.

*Section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination*

7. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the requested resources under section 1 for the 10-week period (see annex I). As indicated in annex I, personnel-related requirements would comprise \$168,200 for salaries, \$72,900 for common staff costs, \$48,600 for consultants and \$67,000 for official travel. Upon enquiry as to the application of salaries and common staff costs for the panel members, the Committee was informed that the standard salary and common staff costs were used as a budgetary reference to derive remuneration estimates for the panel members, since consultancy fees are not fixed. The Committee was further informed that the figures were based on the standard annual salary costs for the comparable staff levels, calculated on a pro rata basis for the envisaged 10-week period. **The Advisory Committee considers that the terminology used by the Secretary-General in this context is inaccurate. As the panel members are not United Nations staff members, the terms “salaries” and “common staff costs” would not be appropriate and should be replaced with the term “fees”.**

8. With respect to consultants, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the expertise of consultants which the independent panel might draw on would likely depend on the information or evidence that the panel receives, which cannot be predicted at this stage, and that one of the panel members might bring some expertise in one of the areas listed (ballistic, medical or explosives). The Committee was also informed that the location of the consultants could not be predicted, and that the Office of Legal Affairs would seek to ensure the most efficient means possible of procuring the expertise required to assist the panel in carrying out its work.

9. As indicated in annex I, under “Other expenditures”, the Secretary-General is requesting \$13,500 for contractual services, \$6,400 for communications, \$16,600 for rental of premises, \$5,400 for equipment and \$1,500 for material and supplies for the 10-week period. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following table showing expenditure recorded up to 30 November 2014 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget:

**Overall policymaking, direction and coordination: expenditure as at 30 November 2014**

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Allotment</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Per cent used</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Posts	34 972 000	31 083 943.53	88.9	3 888 056.47
Other staff costs	2 454 900	2 849 277.84	116.1	-394 377.84
Non-staff compensation	2 750 200	1 948 105.80	70.8	802 094.20
Consultants	416 400	190 135.00	45.7	226 265.00
Travel of representatives	4 896 300	4 090 329.72	83.5	805 970.28
Travel of staff	2 144 200	1 788 006.64	83.4	356 193.36
Contractual services	3 998 700	879 276.60	22.0	3 119 423.40
General operating expenses	735 400	455 622.69	62.0	279 777.31
Hospitality	270 700	201 331.61	74.4	69 368.39
Supplies and materials	157 000	73 489.10	46.8	83 510.90
Furniture and equipment	142 000	96 986.82	68.3	45 013.18
Grants and contributions	6 604 500	6 458 385.45	97.8	146 114.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>59 542 300</b>	<b>50 114 890.80</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>9 427 409.20</b>

10. The Advisory Committee notes that current expenditure under section 1 amounts to \$50,114,890.80, representing 84.2 per cent of the allotment for 2014 of \$59,542,300, leaving a balance of \$9,427,409.20 for the remainder of 2014. **In the light of the current expenditure and balance under section 1, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the total amount of \$400,100 requested under section 1 can be absorbed.**

*Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management*

11. In his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the conference-servicing requirements of \$50,900 in 2015 under section 2 of the programme budget relate to the production of one pre-session document of 8,500 words in all six languages. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a standard of 8,500 words had been adopted for operational purposes based on a historical average of 530 words per printed page (see General Assembly resolution 52/214 B, para. 4).

12. In the context of its consideration of the revised estimates resulting from the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 69/2, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the costs for the documentation workload of one document of 8,500 words in the six official languages of the United Nations across the four duty stations, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, were as follows:

<i>Duty station</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
New York	50 900
Geneva	35 100
Nairobi	17 700
Vienna	29 600

13. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the estimated costs of processing documents for all duty stations were based on a single global costing model that takes into account differences in the processing workflow, scale of operations and prevailing market conditions across duty stations.

14. In the context of its consideration of the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#) on oceans and the law of the sea, the Advisory Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with comparative information on the costs of processing a document of 8,500 words (\$50,900) and a document of 27,500 words (\$161,800) in New York (see annex II).

**15. The Advisory Committee has no objections at this time to the proposed conference-servicing requirements of \$50,900 in 2015 under section 2 of the programme budget. The Committee intends to examine the costing model for the processing of official documents by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management at the four duty stations, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, in greater detail in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017.**

#### IV. Conclusion

16. Taking into account its observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/69/L.42](#), an additional appropriation of \$50,900 would be required, representing a charge against the contingency fund, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The Committee recommends absorption of the amount of \$400,100 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

## Annex I

### Resources requested under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the independent panel of experts for the 10-week review period

#### A. Total resources requested under section 1

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>
<b>Other personnel costs</b> (3 Panel members (1 ASG and 2 D-1), 1 P-5 Secretary and 1 General Service (Other level) Assistant)	
Salaries	168 200
Common staff costs	72 900
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>241 100</b>
<b>Other expenditures</b>	
Consultants	48 600
Official travel	67 000
Contractual services	13 500
Communications	6 400
Rental of premises	16 600
Equipment	5 400
Material and supplies	1 500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>159 000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 100</b>

#### B. Breakdown of other expenditures

(United States dollars)

##### 1. Consultants

	<i>Number of consultants</i>	<i>Travel cost per person<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Daily subsistence allowance per person<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Daily fee per person<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Duration (days)</i>	<i>Total cost per person</i>	<i>Estimated total cost</i>
Consultants (ballistic, medical, explosives)	2	2 000	378	685	21	24 323	48 646

<sup>a</sup> Travel and per diem in New York for an international consultant.

<sup>b</sup> Midpoint of low and high ends of the rate for level D consultants.

## 2. Official travel

	<i>Number of travellers</i>	<i>Duration of travel (days)</i>	<i>Airfare per person</i>	<i>Daily subsistence allowance per person<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Terminal fees per person</i>	<i>Total cost per person</i>	<i>Estimated total cost</i>
Trips to Zambia/ Angola	5	14	9 000	300	202	13 402	67 010

<sup>a</sup> Daily subsistence allowance is an estimated average for Angola and Zambia.

## 3. Contractual services

	<i>Number of staff</i>	<i>Cost per staff member</i>	<i>Estimated total cost</i>
Installation of local area network (one-time cost)	5	600	3 000
Service-level agreement (level A)	5	2 100	10 500
<b>Total</b>			<b>13 500</b>

## 4. Communications

	<i>Number of staff</i>	<i>Cost per staff member</i>	<i>Number of payments</i>	<i>Estimated total cost</i>
Telephone and facsimile (one time)	5	300	1	1 500
Telephone and facsimile (monthly)	5	30	3	450
Wireless charge (monthly)	4	300	3	3 600
Wireless devices (one time)	4	200	1	800
<b>Total</b>				<b>6 350</b>

## 5. Rental of premises

	<i>Number of staff</i>	<i>Cost per staff member</i>	<i>Number of payments</i>	<i>Estimated total cost</i>
Rental of premises (monthly)	5	1 325	2.5	16 563
Alteration to premises (Assistant Secretary-General level)	1	125 700	1	–
Alteration to premises (D-1 level)	2	62 900	1	–
Alteration to premises (P-5 level)	1	31 400	1	–
Alteration to premises (other level)	1	21 000	1	–
Furniture (Assistant Secretary-General level)	1	27 200	1	–
Furniture (D-1 level)	2	10 700	1	–
Furniture (other level)	2	10 300	1	–
<b>Total</b>				<b>16 563</b>

**6. Material and supplies**

	<i>Number of staff</i>	<i>Cost per staff member</i>	<i>Estimated total cost</i>
Acquisition of personal computers	5	1 000	5 000
Acquisition of desktop printer	2	200	400
Office and stationery supplies (including cartridges)	–	–	1 500



## Annex II

### Comparative information on the processing of a document of 8,500 words and a document of 27,500 words

Service	Document of 8,500 words		Document of 27,500 words		Cost		
	(a)	(b)	€	(d)	Cost per unit (in United States dollars)	8,500 words (in United States dollars)	27,500 words (in United States dollars)
					€	(f)=(b)·€	(g)=(d)·€
Translation and revision <sup>a</sup>	26 pages	49 days to translate	83 pages	157 days to translate	764.09	37 440.41	119 962.13
Text-processing <sup>b</sup>	26 pages	31 days to process	83 pages	98 days to process	307.38	9 528.78	30 123.24
Reproduction <sup>c</sup>	26 pages	51 194 impressed pages	83 pages	163 427 impressed pages	0.07	3 548.97	11 329.41
Distribution <sup>d</sup>	1 document	1 969 documents to distribute	1 document	1 969 documents to distribute	0.19	382.88	382.88
<b>Total</b>						<b>50 900<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>161 800<sup>e</sup></b>

<sup>a</sup> Based on a standard of 1.88 work days (rounded) per page to be translated in all official languages.

<sup>b</sup> Based on a standard of 1.18 work days (rounded) per page to be processed in all official languages.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a historical standard of 1,969 impressions per page.

<sup>d</sup> Based on the standard of 1,969 impressions per document.

<sup>e</sup> Rounded.