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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 9th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 30 October 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Rambukwella (Vice-Chair) ..... (Sri Lanka)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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*In the absence of Mr. Ružička (Slovakia), Ms. Rambukwella (Sri Lanka), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 132: Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015** *(continued)*

*Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/69/L.3: Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (A/69/551; A/C.5/69/4)*

1. **Mr. Huisman** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing 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.3](#) on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent ([A/C.5/69/4](#)), said that the General Assembly would request the implementation of various activities called for under the terms of paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the draft resolution, as well as paragraphs 29 (c), (f), (g), (i) and (j) of the annex to the draft resolution.
2. Should the draft resolution be adopted by the General Assembly, additional resource requirements in the amount of \$1,076,400 for 2015, would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, including \$191,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; \$796,100 under section 24, Human rights; and \$88,500 under section 28, Public information, as well as an additional amount of \$70,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. The amount of \$1,076,400 would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015.
3. The General Assembly was also requested to approve the establishment of three temporary posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), under section 24, Human rights, effective 1 January 2015. It should be noted that those posts were requested for a duration of 10 years, aligned with the duration of the related activities called for in the draft resolution.
4. The requirements for the subsequent bienniums, namely, 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023 and 2024-2025, as set out in the annex to the statement, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the respective biennium.
5. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee ([A/69/551](#)), said that the Advisory Committee noted that, of the total estimated amount of \$9,031,700 required for the implementation of activities related to the International Decade, the Secretary-General was requesting revised resources of \$1,080,600 for the biennium 2014-2015.
6. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the requested resources in the amount of \$1,080,600 for the biennium 2014-2015. It would review the resources to be requested for the implementation of the activities of the International Decade in the proposed programme budgets of subsequent bienniums. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would ensure the complementarity of the activities of the Decade with other programmes to be undertaken by the Organization and to avoid duplications in that regard.
7. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution [A/69/L.3](#), additional requirements of \$1,080,600 under sections 2, 24 and 28 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. That would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.
8. **Ms. Rios Requena** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached great importance to the International Decade for People of African Descent, which, pursuant to resolution 68/237, would commence on 1 January 2015 and end on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”. Similarly, the Group was deeply committed to the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade, which would contribute to the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to raising awareness of the fight against prejudice, intolerance and racism.

9. The Group noted the additional resource requirements in the amount of \$1,080,600 under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, including \$196,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; \$796,100 under section 24, Human rights; \$88,500 under section 28, Public information; and an additional amount of \$70,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, as well as the request to approve the establishment of three posts under section 24, Human Rights. The Group supported the provision of the resources requested by the Secretary-General, as endorsed by the Advisory Committee. All mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations should be provided with adequate resources from the regular budget for their implementation.

10. **Ms. Coto-Ramírez** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member States of CELAC had adopted a communiqué on 27 September 2013, proclaiming the start of Decade of Latin American and Caribbean People of African Descent on 1 January 2014, with the purpose of strengthening regional and international cooperation to guarantee the human rights of people of African descent, including education, health, identity, dignity, cultural values and social and economic development.

11. The Latin American and the Caribbean regional meeting on the International Decade of People of African Descent, held in Brasilia, Brazil, on 20 and 21 March 2014, had been attended by representatives of Governments and civil society from the region, as well as of international organizations, who had discussed the region's involvement in the negotiations to adopt the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and recommended international, regional and national strategies to promote the inclusion of people of African descent.

12. Those initiatives bore testament to the commitment of Latin American and Caribbean countries to the effective observance of the International Decade. Concurring with the Secretary-General's statement on programme budget implications, as endorsed by the Advisory Committee, she said that the necessary resources must be made available to ensure the proper implementation of the

activities of the International Decade. The member States of CELAC were convinced that the programme of activities would provide the necessary framework for the Decade to contribute to the advancement of international commitments, particularly those related to the social inclusion of people of African descent and to guaranteeing their equal enjoyment of all human rights.

13. **Mr. Dosseh** (Togo), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the theme of the International Decade, "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", was evocative of the history of the African continent; the Group therefore urged the Secretary-General to ensure the full and effective implementation of the envisaged programme of activities. The programme of action would give Member States an opportunity to tackle the problems of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

14. Noting that the overall resource requirements for the International Decade amounted to \$9,031,700 for the period from 2015 to 2025, and of that \$1,080,600 was needed for the current biennium for the programme of activities, he said that the Group supported the Secretary-General's request for resources for the current biennium. The Group also encouraged Member States to provide additional extrabudgetary resources to supplement the implementation of the planned activities.

15. The Group noted that the draft resolution requested the President of the General Assembly to convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions before the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly. However, the financial resources to conduct that review were not included in the proposal before the Committee. The Group expected that those resources would be provided by the General Assembly in due course, in accordance with rule 153 of its rules of procedure, once the modalities of the review had been determined.

16. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that Brazil was a multiracial, multi-ethnic and multicultural society and home to the largest population of people of African descent in the world. His Government remained committed to overcoming all forms of racism and discrimination and to guaranteeing the right to legal and material equality for all, without discrimination.

17. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action had inspired his Government to adopt

legislation, including the Statute of Racial Equality, national plans and affirmative action policies, and to create specialized State bodies and mechanisms, such as the Secretariat for Policies to Promote Racial Equality. However, there were still many challenges to the inclusion of people of African descent in the social, cultural, economic and political spheres of developed and developing countries.

18. His delegation was committed to the success of the International Decade for People of African Descent, which would be an opportunity for Member States, civil society, the United Nations and all other relevant stakeholders to demonstrate their resolve and join efforts to pursue the goal of promoting and protecting all the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent. The International Decade represented a unique opportunity to underline the important contribution made by people of African descent to society and to propose concrete measures to promote their full inclusion and to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

*United Nations Office for Partnerships (continued)*

19. **The Chair** recalled that the matter of the United Nations Office for Partnerships had been introduced at the Committee's sixth meeting. An oral draft decision had been prepared for consideration by the Committee, whereby it would recommend that the General Assembly should recall its decision 68/549 B of 9 April 2014 and take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships ([A/67/165](#), [A/67/165/Corr.1](#), [A/68/186](#) and [A/69/218](#)). If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision.

20. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 144: Administration of justice at the United Nations** (*continued*) ([A/C.5/69/10](#))

21. **The Chair** drew the attention of the Committee to a letter dated 29 October 2014 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chair of the Fifth Committee contained in document [A/C.5/69/10](#).

*The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.*