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Agenda item 138

Proposed programme budget for 2022

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2021

[on the report of the Fifth Committee ([A/76/633](#), para. 60)]

76/245. Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for 2022

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions [41/213](#) of 19 December 1986, [42/211](#) of 21 December 1987, [45/248](#) B, section VI, of 21 December 1990, [55/231](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001, [58/269](#) and [58/270](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/276](#), section XI, of 23 December 2004, [60/283](#) of 7 July 2006, [61/263](#) of 4 April 2007, [62/236](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/262](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/243](#) of 24 December 2009, [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/246](#) of 24 December 2011, [68/246](#) of 27 December 2013, [70/247](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/272](#) A of 23 December 2016, [72/261](#) and [72/266](#) A of 24 December 2017, [72/266](#) B of 5 July 2018, [73/281](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/262](#) of 27 December 2019, [75/252](#) and [75/253](#) A of 31 December 2020, [75/253](#) B of 16 April 2021 and [75/253](#) C of 30 June 2021,

Reaffirming also the respective mandates of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the consideration of the proposed programme budget,

Reaffirming further the role of the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of posts and financial resources, as well as of human resources policies,

Expressing deep concern about the detrimental effect of the withholding of assessed contributions on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and its ability to implement mandates and programmes,

Having considered the proposed programme budget for 2022,¹ the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on internal oversight: proposed programme

¹ [A/76/6 \(Introduction\)](#), sects. 1–36, income sects. 1–3 and corrigenda.



budget for 2022² and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,³

Having also considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the activities, performance and results of staff support provided to the human rights treaty body system of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁴

Having further considered the notes by the Secretary-General drawing attention to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “United Nations common premises: current practices and future prospects”⁵ and “Blockchain applications in the United Nations system: towards a state of readiness”⁶ and the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,⁷

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and also reaffirms the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

2. *Also reaffirms* rule 153 of its rules of procedure;

3. *Further reaffirms* the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;⁸

4. *Reaffirms* the established budgetary procedures and methodologies, based on its resolutions [41/213](#) and [42/211](#);

5. *Also reaffirms* the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;⁹

6. *Further reaffirms* its resolution [76/236](#) of 24 December 2021;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

8. *Stresses* that finance serves as a foundation of and an important element underpinning United Nations governance;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full, effective and efficient implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁰ and notes with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure adequate, sustainable and predictable resources for development, with the aim of leaving no one behind;

² [A/76/81](#).

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([A/76/7](#) and [A/76/7/Corr.1](#)).

⁴ [A/76/197](#).

⁵ [A/75/730](#).

⁶ [A/76/325](#).

⁷ [A/75/730/Add.1](#) and [A/76/325/Add.1](#).

⁸ [ST/SGB/2018/3](#).

⁹ [ST/SGB/2013/4](#) and [ST/SGB/2013/4/Amend.1](#).

¹⁰ Resolution [70/1](#).

11. *Also emphasizes* the importance of promoting sustainable development at the global and regional levels in a balanced and integrated manner in order to tackle current challenges and accelerate post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery, and looks forward to the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies continuing to support efforts by Member States in this regard;
12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further report in the next budget performance report on the impact of COVID-19 on the programme budget for 2021, detailing the recorded budget variances and flexible working arrangements, and to factor lessons learned for the working methods of the Secretariat, without prejudice to the work of intergovernmental bodies, into the next proposed programme budget;
13. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations on time, in full and without conditions;
14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to make every effort to facilitate Member States' payments of their assessed contributions;
15. *Recalls* that adequate resources must be provided to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of mandates;
16. *Notes* that organizational reforms should contribute to greater efficiency and effectiveness in delivering the Organization's mandated programmes and activities without negatively affecting their full implementation, and requests the Secretary-General to provide results and examples in this regard in the context of his next budget submission;
17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to provide more budget-related information online and in supplementary documentation;
18. *Notes* the increased size and volume of documentation that forms the proposed programme budget, and notes with appreciation that the Secretary-General continues his efforts to enhance the quality, clarity and usability of the proposed programme budget in consultation with Member States, while maintaining the level of information provided to Member States;
19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in producing more realistic budget assumptions and accurate resource estimates, adapting faster to changes in mandates and actual programme performance, with a view to ensuring a greater focus on results and mandate delivery;
20. *Stresses* that results-based budgeting and results-based management are mutually supportive management tools and that improved implementation of results-based budgeting enhances both management and accountability in the Secretariat, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;
21. *Emphasizes* the importance of comprehensive budgetary performance in the management of the programme plan and programme budget, and requests the Secretary-General to clearly link the budget inputs to tangible results;
22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in future proposed programme budgets the indicative cost estimates of major construction projects in the top-line budget figure in the introductory section of the budget, for information purposes only;
23. *Reiterates* the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations, underlines that the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the equal treatment of the six official languages, and requests the Secretary-General to propose concrete measures to improve multilingualism in the next programme budget submission;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve upon the common staff cost methodology and improve the accuracy of common staff cost forecasts;
25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen internal controls in programme planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting;
26. *Decides* that a vacancy rate of 10 per cent for Professional staff and 9.2 per cent for General Service staff shall be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for 2022;
27. *Notes with concern* that the current overall single vacancy rate by staff category for all sections is inflated and may have an impact on mandate delivery, and requests the Secretary-General to bring the actual vacancy rate in the budget sections to the approved vacancy rate before applying it;
28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review those posts that have been vacant for 24 months or longer and to propose either the retention with clear justification of need or the abolishment of those posts in his next budget proposal;
29. *Decides* that the staffing table for 2022 shall be as set out in the annex to the present resolution;
30. *Also decides* to reduce resources for consultants by 10 per cent;
31. *Further decides* to reduce resources for travel of staff by 5 per cent;
32. *Takes note* of paragraph 70 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides not to reduce information and communications technology-related resources by 1 million United States dollars;
33. *Recalls* paragraph 73 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to further reduce resources proposed under supplies and materials by 5 per cent;
34. *Decides* to reduce resources for general operating expenses by 0.1 per cent;
35. *Stresses* that all extrabudgetary posts must be administered and managed with the same rigour as regular budget posts;

Part I

Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

Section 1

Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

36. *Takes note* of paragraph I.15 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to examine the need to reclassify the three posts, in close consultation with the Advisory Committee, and to report thereon in the next budget proposal;

Section 2

General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

37. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of its resolution [75/252](#), commends the increased throughput productivity of the translation services across all duty stations and the achievements made by language staff to meet the revised workload standards, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure adequate training and technical support in order to ensure equal treatment of all official languages;

38. *Decides to establish one post of Russian Interpreter (P-3) in New York;*

Part II
Political affairs

Section 3
Political affairs

39. *Notes the ongoing reforms of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure greater coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and regional and subregional entities, with the ultimate purpose of delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union;*

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

40. *Recognizes the important role of peacekeeping and special political missions at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, as appropriate, in maintaining peace and security in fulfilment of their mandates;*

41. *Re-emphasizes the importance of improving the safety and security of peacekeepers and mission personnel, and requests the Secretary-General to fulfil the responsibilities under relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council to improve the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers and mission personnel;*

Part III
International justice and law

Section 8
Legal affairs

42. *Takes note of paragraphs III.60, III.61 and III.62 of the report of the Advisory Committee;*

43. *Decides that regular budget resources for the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 under section 8, Legal affairs, for 2022 amount to 17,159,700 dollars before recosting;*

Part IV
International cooperation for development

Section 9
Economic and social affairs

44. *Takes note of paragraph IV.5 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to approve the reclassification of the post of Senior Programme Management Officer, Forest Affairs (P-5) to Deputy Director, Forest Affairs (D-1);*

45. *Decides to reclassify the P-4 post in the Programme on Ageing Unit to a P-5 post and establish a new P-3 post in the same unit;*

Section 10**Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States**

46. *Takes note* of paragraph IV.24 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish one post of Associate Data Analyst (P-2) in the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

Section 11**United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

47. *Recalls* that the development of Africa is an established priority of the United Nations, and reaffirms its commitment to address the unique needs of Africa;

48. *Decides* to establish one post of Data Analyst (P-3) under subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

Section 12**Trade and development**

49. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Bridgetown Covenant at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on 7 October 2021, takes note that, owing to its recent adoption, no provisions are included in the proposed programme budget for 2022 for implementation of the relevant mandates, and therefore requests the Secretary-General to include relevant proposals for implementation of the Covenant in the next proposed programme budget;

Section 15**Human settlements**

50. *Takes note* of paragraph IV.124 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

Part V**Regional cooperation for development****Section 18****Economic and social development in Africa**

51. *Takes note* of paragraph V.3 of the report of the Advisory Committee, decides not to abolish the two posts (P-3 and P-4) under programme support in the Economic Commission for Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to expedite and finalize the recruitment process;

Section 20**Economic development in Europe**

52. *Approves* the proposal of the Secretary-General for non-post resources;

Part VI**Human rights and humanitarian affairs****Section 24****Human rights**

53. *Takes note* of paragraph VI.20 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

**Section 26
Palestine refugees**

54. *Calls upon* the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to further enhance its internal governance and oversight mechanisms to ensure that its management is delivering on the Agency's mandate with transparency and accountability, while preserving the Agency's agility and operational response capacity, and to provide an update on progress made in its next budget submission;

55. *Decides* to approve resources at the Secretary-General level;

**Section 27
Humanitarian assistance**

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore strengthening his collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, where appropriate, to support humanitarian work;

**Part VII
Global communications****Section 28
Global communications**

57. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to explore liaising with regional and subregional organizations in Africa so as to increase knowledge and awareness of the opportunities and activities of the United Nations;

58. *Decides* to abolish one General Service (Other level) post and one P-3 post under subprogramme 1, Strategic communications services, that have been vacant for more than two years;

**Part VIII
Common support services****Section 29A
Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance**

59. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.17 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to reduce resources under contractual services related to training by 363,300 dollars;

**Section 29B
Department of Operational Support**

60. *Decides* to abolish one General Service (Other level) post that has been vacant for more than two years;

**Section 29E
Administration, Geneva**

61. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.83 (c) of the report of the Advisory Committee, and approves the proposal of the Secretary-General for non-post resources;

**Section 29G
Administration, Nairobi**

62. *Takes note* of paragraph VIII.140 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

Part IX
Internal oversight

Section 30
Internal oversight

63. *Takes note* of paragraph IX.8 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish one post of Deputy Director (D-1) and one post of Evaluation Officer (P-4) under subprogramme 2, Inspection and evaluation;

Part XI
Capital expenditures

Section 33
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

64. *Decides* to further reduce resources for alteration, improvement and major maintenance projects by 200,000 dollars;

65. *Takes note* of paragraph XI.20 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to reduce the provision under section 33 for the United Nations Office at Geneva by 5 per cent;

66. *Also takes note* of paragraph XI.22 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

67. *Further takes note* of paragraph XI.23 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

Part XIII
Development Account

Section 35
Development account

68. *Decides* to increase, on a non-recurrent basis, the Development Account for 2022 by 1 million dollars.

*54th (resumed) plenary meeting
24 December 2021*

Annex
Staffing table for 2022

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of posts</i>
<i>Expenditure sections</i>	
Professional and higher	
Deputy Secretary-General	1
Under-Secretary-General	36
Assistant Secretary-General	33
D-2	114
D-1	304
P-5	911
P-4	1 568
P-3	1 485

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of posts</i>
P-2/1	530
Subtotal	4 982
General Service and related	
Principal level	272
Other level	2 279
Subtotal	2 551
Other	
Security Service	306
Local level	1 901
Field Service	106
National Professional Officer	88
Trades and Crafts	93
Subtotal	2 494
Expenditure sections total	10 027
<i>Income section 3</i>	
Professional and higher	
P-5	2
P-4	4
P-3	4
P-2/1	3
Subtotal	13
General Service and related	
Principal level	7
Other level	42
Subtotal	49
Other	
Security Service	2
Subtotal	2
Income section 3 total	64
Total	10 091