

***** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY *****



FIFTH COMMITTEE

Agenda item 136

Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019:

**Progress report on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations
Headquarters**

(A/73/370, Corr.1)

**Revised estimates relating to the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate
(A/73/412)**

**Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights
Council at its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions and its twenty-eighth
special session**

(A/73/477 and Corr.1)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9

Effects of atomic radiation

(A/C.5/73/8)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.37

Advancing responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international security

(A/C.5/73/9)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution (A/C.1/73/L.22/Rev.1)

Convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

(A/C.5/73/10 and Corr.1)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session

(A/C.5/73/12)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.51

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

(A/C.5/73/13)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.48

Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine

(A/C.5/73/14)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1

A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

(A/C.5/73/15)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/73/L.23

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

(A/C.5/73/16)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49

Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

(A/C.5/73/17)

Contingency fund: Consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

(A/C.5/73/18)

Statement by

**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Acting Controller**

14 December 2018

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honor to introduce the **third annual progress report on the implementation of flexible workplace strategies at United Nations Headquarters (A/73/370)**. To date, 14 floors of the Secretariat Building have been reconfigured to flexible workplace, with one more floor currently being reconfigured. A capacity for 690 staff has been added to the Secretariat Building. During 2018, two leased buildings were vacated, allowing the Secretariat to reduce recurrent rental costs of \$16.3 million per year. The report presents the schedule and costs for the completion of the remaining floors in 2019 and 2020. The report also provides details of the staff survey carried out in 2018, which shows an increase in the satisfaction score from the 2017 survey.

2. The Assembly is requested to approve the implementation of further phases of the project, to approve the continuation of three project team positions, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to \$12,691,200 for the project costs in 2019 and to appropriate an amount of \$6,586,600 under component 5, Division of Administration, New York, of section 29B, Department of Operational Support, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

3. I also have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on **the revised estimates relating to the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate** contained in the document A/73/412. By its resolution 72/262A, the General Assembly approved an amount of \$665,000 for the Office for 2018 only. In the present report, the Secretary-General proposes resource requirements for 2019 in the amount of \$836,100 comprising \$772,500 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and \$63,600 under section 29B, Department of Operational Support, representing a charge against the contingency fund, as well as an amount of

\$94,100 under section 36, Staff assessment to be offset by corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2018-2019. The Secretary-General also proposes the conversion of the four general temporary assistance-funded positions into established posts.

4. I now turn to the report of the Secretary-General, A/73/477 and Corr.1, **on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions and twenty-eighth special session.** The Council adopted 55 resolutions with financial implications. In support of the implementation of these resolutions, the Secretary-General requests an additional appropriation of \$29,103,500, representing a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2018-2019. Approval is also requested for establishment of one new P-3 temporary post under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019; and for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$60,000 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Madam Chair,

5. On the programme budget implications related to draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9 entitled **“Effect of atomic radiation”**, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes reclassification of 1 established post from P-4 to P-5 level under section 14, Environment, effective 1 January 2019, to serve as Deputy Secretary to the Committee. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, additional resources in the amount of \$24,900 would be required under section 14, Environment, for the biennium 2018-2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund. In addition, an amount of \$4,400 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

6. On the programme budget implications related to draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.37 entitled **“Advancing responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international**

security”, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$206,700 to cover travel costs of the experts and the secretary of the group of governmental experts to attend the meetings, and services of a consultant to provide technical and substantive support to the Office for Disarmament Affairs in connection with preparations for, and substantive servicing of, the work of the group and the two two-day informal consultative meetings. Should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution, these additional resources would be reflected under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, and would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

7. On the programme budget implications relating to draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.22/Rev.1 entitled “**Convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction**”, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (e) of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$1,013,200 to cover the costs of interpretation, documentation, meeting summaries, website production and maintenance, and other staff costs. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, these additional resources would be reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 4, Disarmament, and section 28, Public information, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund, as well as under section 36, staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

8. The next statement of programme budget implications relates to draft resolution A/C.6/73/L.22 entitled “**Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its seventieth session**”. To implement the requests contained in paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$128,100 to cover the costs of travel of members of the International Law Commission and travel of staff to service the Commission sessions. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, these additional

resources would be reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 under section 8, Legal affairs, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

9. On the programme budget implications relating to draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.51 entitled **“Situation of human rights in Myanmar”**, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 18 (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$1,232,300 to cover the salaries of five positions of the Office of Special Envoy on Myanmar, as well as other operational requirements. Approval for these requirements is being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the 2019 budget for special political missions.

10. On the programme budget implications related to draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.48, entitled **“Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine”**, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$105,200 to prepare and present a report to the General Assembly. Of these additional resources, \$26,000 would be absorbed within the approved appropriation for the biennium under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and the balance of \$79,200 under section 24, Human rights, is requested as an additional appropriation for 2018-2019 and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

11. On the programme budget implications related to draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1 entitled **“A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”**, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 12 and 27 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$616,600 to provide for the proposed establishment of 1 P-4 post under section 24, Human rights, effective 1 January 2019, to serve as Secretary of

the Permanent Forum, and other operational requirements. Provisions in the amount of \$95,200 have already been included in the 2018-2019 programme budget and an amount of \$73,900 would be absorbed within the approved appropriation under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. The remaining requirements of \$447,500 would be met by an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018-2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, these additional resources would be reflected in the 2018-2019 programme budget under section 24, Human rights, section 28 Public information and section 29F Administration, Geneva. Further, an additional appropriation of \$11,000 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the 2018-2019 programme budget, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

12. On the programme budget implications relating to draft resolution A/73/L.23 entitled **“Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States”**, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 1, 2, and 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$287,400 to provide for two posts and other operational requirements for the United Nations liaison office to the League of Arab States to be located in Cairo. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of 1 P-5 post and one Local level post. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, these additional resources would be reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 under section 3, Political affairs, that would represent a charge against the contingency fund, as well as under section 36, Staff Assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

13. On the programme budget implications related to draft resolution A/C.2/73/L.49 entitled **“Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme”**, in order to implement the requests contained in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, resources in the amount of \$2,006,100 would be needed in 2018-2019 to provide for conference services, administrative, logistical and substantive support to the United Nations Environment Programme governing body. Provisions in the amount of \$1,137,100 have already been included

in the 2018-2019 programme budget and an amount of \$545,600 would be absorbed within the existing appropriation under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. Should the General-Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the balance of the requirements in the amount of \$323,400 under section 14, Environment, would be met through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018-2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

14. Lastly, on the **consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates** charged against the contingency fund, the Committee would recall that in its resolutions 71/274 and 72/262, the Assembly approved charges totaling \$39.4 million against the approved level of \$40.5 million for the contingency fund, leaving a balance of \$1.1 million in the fund.

15. Potential new charges to the contingency fund presented in this report amount to \$78.9 million, and reflect the information available as at 7 December 2018, after taking into account the then known recommendations of the ACABQ. Recommendations emanating from the Advisory Committee after the present report was published, further reduced the potential charges to \$78.0 million.

16. While efforts were undertaken to absorb additional requirements, their magnitude did not allow for full absorption. As the present format of the budget no longer contains priority-setting information approved by Member States, alternative options for reallocation or reduction of resources between high and low priority mandated programme elements, including the deferral, termination and curtailment of mandated activities, would require General Assembly approval.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on these items.

Thank you.