

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions
adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session (A/75/845)

**Opening statement by Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General, Department of
Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to the Fifth Committee**

17 May 2021

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Today, I am pleased to have the opportunity to present the “Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session”.

As you may recall, in its resolution on the United Nations common system adopted during the first resumed session (A/RES/75/245B), the General Assembly acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General in engaging with multiple stakeholders in the preparation of his report (A/75/690), and encouraged continued outreach and consultations with all the relevant stakeholders. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to:

- a. Provide detailed updated information on the divergence in the jurisprudence of the two tribunals on matters relating to the International Civil Service Commission and an assessment of its impact on the cohesion of the United Nations common system;
- b. Submit a further report with detailed proposals and thorough analysis on practical options giving priority to measures involving changes to the adjudication of cases involving International Civil Service Commission matters (as set out in section IV, option D) and measures under option B as set out in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General limited to the review of tribunal judgements and issuance of guidance by the International Civil Service Commission as well as increased exchanges between the tribunals, and to present it for the consideration of the General Assembly no later than the seventy-seventh session; and
- c. Provide, during the main part of its seventy-sixth session, an informal briefing on the status of the progress on the preparation of the report on the jurisdictional set-up.

While the report containing an elaboration of the options is not requested until the seventh-seventh session, the General Assembly has requested an update during the main part

of the seventh-sixth session to enable the Fifth Committee to decide on whether the engagement of the Sixth Committee during the following session will be required. Accordingly, there is an expectation that the work on the report will be well advanced by the latter part of 2021.

The preparation of the requested report will require dedicated resources from 1 July 2021 until 31 December 2022 and related costs. The report, estimated at 20,000 words and translated in all official languages, would be submitted in the main 77th session. The services of two temporary positions, a Principal Legal Officer (D-1) and an Associate Legal Officer (P-2), will be required for a period of 18 months. There is a need for the work to be led by a Principal Legal Officer, as the development of the options will require high level consultations with the legal advisers of the United Nations common system, the judges of the tribunals, the International Civil Service Commission and staff associations. While the work will be undertaken under the supervision of the Under-Secretaries-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and for Legal Affairs, the detailed nature of this work will require the incumbent to carry out the work with a fair degree of autonomy and minimal supervision.

The revised estimates reflect the requirements for 2021. Additional requirements for 2022 will be included in the respective sections of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

The resources that supported the initial review on the review of the jurisdictional setup of the UN common system cannot be continued. Due to the liquidity situation, ad hoc arrangements were possible with posts for which regular recruitment was put on hold; however, one of the two posts is already being filled and the recruitment process for the second one is about to be imminently launched.

I thank you for your support and stand ready to answer any questions the Committee may have.