

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

UNITED NATIONS



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FIFTH COMMITTEE

Agenda item 138 and 78 (a)

Proposed Programme budget for 2022

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

**Programme budget implications of draft decision A/76/L.46
(A/C.5/76/24)**

Introductory statement

by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan

Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

12 May 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to present the report of the Secretary-General, A/C.5/76/24, on the programme budget implications of draft decision A/76/L.46, relating to the Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

2. In support of the implementation of this decision, the Secretary-General requests an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,013,900 under the programme budget for 2022, comprising \$894,700 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

and conference management, \$66,200 under section 28, Global communications, \$30,000 under section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology, and \$23,000 under section 34, Safety and security.

3. An additional appropriation in the amount of \$ 107,400 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2022, to be offset by an equivalent amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, is also requested.

4. In light of the proximity of the mandated session, it is proposed that the Committee considers taking action on this item on a priority basis, at the earliest opportunity. This would allow early adoption of the Committee's recommendation by the General Assembly, ideally by the end of May or early June at the latest. In turn, this would allow the Secretariat to convene the session and thus ensure that Member States have sufficient time to secure credentials, visa and make travel arrangements. In particular, developing States will need to submit applications for assistance from the Trust Fund established to facilitate their participation in the Conference by 21 June. Invitations need therefore be sent to Member States as soon as possible. Finally, extensive pre-session documentation, in particular the revised draft text of the instrument under negotiation, needs to be processed and issued in all official languages in a timely manner before the session, which is contingent on the approval of funds.

Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you for your consideration of the proposal and we look forward to supporting you in addressing any questions you may have.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.