

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 134
Programme Budget for the biennium 2014-2015

**Programme budget implications statement, resulting from General Assembly's resolution
A/68/L.37 on Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty
body system
(A/68/779)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
Ms. María Eugenia Casar
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller
26 March 2014

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. The ten current treaty bodies established under the international human rights conventions constitute a fundamental pillar of the international human rights protection system. The treaty body system has faced significant growth since the establishment of the first treaty body in 1969, due to the adoption of new human rights treaties and a sharp increase in States parties to these treaties.
2. On 13 February 2012, the General Assembly launched the intergovernmental process on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and it was extended by resolutions 66/295 of 17 September 2012 and 68/2 of 20 September 2013. The now concluded intergovernmental process culminated in the tabling of the draft resolution A/68/L.37 by the plenary of the General Assembly. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules and procedures of the General Assembly, the draft resolution was submitted to the Secretary-General in order to prepare a statement of programme budget implications to be considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee before consideration for adoption of the draft resolution by the General Assembly.

Mr Chairman,

3. In this statement, allow me to highlight a few elements of the draft resolution.

- Under operative paragraph 26, the General Assembly would decide to allocate meeting time to the treaty bodies based on four criteria. Under operative paragraph 27, the General Assembly would decide that the amount of meeting time allocated will be reviewed on a biennial basis based on actual reporting during the previous four years and amended on this basis at the request of the Secretary-General in line with the budgetary procedures.
- Under operative paragraph 28, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to take into account the meeting time needed for the increased capacity of State parties to submit reports, the situation in terms of ratifications, and the number of individual communications considered, in his future biennial programme budget submissions based on paragraphs 26 and 27. It should be noted therefore, that this may result in amended resource proposals in the programme budget without prior decisions made by the General Assembly.
- The programme budget implications take into account the introduction of word limits and working languages for the translation of documents as well as for interpretation services. It should be noted however, that future reviews of the status of the system and future biennial programme budget submissions would take into consideration possible exceptions to the new limitations such as ad-hoc requests for translation in line with operative paragraph 28.

4. The net additional resources in the amount of \$194,300 would arise for the biennium 2014-2015, including \$9,855,200 under section 24, Human rights; \$327,400 under section 28, Public information; and \$317,100 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva; mostly off-set by a decrease of \$10,305,400 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. The net increase would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2014-2015 to be approved by the General Assembly.

5. For 2016-2017, the proposed programme budget would include additional requirements representing a net increase of \$1,293,700 compared with the currently approved level of resources in the programme budget for 2014-2015, and would include \$19,574,400 under section 24, Human rights; \$661,600 under section 28, Public information; and \$393,300 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva; mostly off-set by a decrease of \$19,335,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management.
6. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.