

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



**Agenda item 136**

**Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions and its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh special sessions  
(A/72/602 and A/72/602/Add.1)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.5  
Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space (A/C.5/72/11)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.45/Rev.1  
Nuclear disarmament (A/C.5/72/12)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.50/Rev.1  
Twentieth anniversary and promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (A/C.5/72/14)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.49/Rev.1  
Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights (A/C.5/72/15)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.21/Rev.1  
Rights of the child (A/C.5/72/16)**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/72/L.7  
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 (A/C.5/72/18)**

**Contingency fund (A/C.5/72/20)**

**Revised estimates: effect of changes in rate of exchange and inflation  
Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates  
(A/72/646, A/72/641)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

**Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas**  
**Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

20 December 2017

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to present the reports of the Secretary-General, A/72/602 and A/72/602/Add.1, on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions and its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh special sessions.
2. The reports before you detail the 79 resolutions and decisions with financial implications adopted by the Human Rights Council, as compared to 73 resolutions and decisions detailed in the 2016 revised estimates report.

3. In support of these resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council, the reports request approval of:

- i. Additional appropriations, representing a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2018-2019, of \$21,747,200 comprising \$2,822,100 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, \$18,824,900 under section 24, Human rights, \$10,100 under section 28, Public information, and \$73,100 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, and \$17,000 under section 34, Safety and security of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.
- ii. Approval of the establishment, of three new P-3 posts under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.
- iii. Approval of an additional appropriation in the amount of \$52,800 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

4. I have the honour to introduce the Programme Budget Implications related to the draft resolution on “**Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space,**” in which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts, with a membership of up to 25 Member States chosen on the basis of fair and equitable geographical representation, to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space, to hold two-week sessions in Geneva in 2018 and 2019, and a two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting in New York in 2019. In order to implement the request, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$994,300 to cover, inter alia, the provision of meeting servicing, documentation, technical services, consultancy, and travel for representatives. These additional resources would be reflected under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 4, Disarmament, and Section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 and would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

5. I have the honour to introduce the Programme Budget Implications related to the draft resolution on **“Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament,”** in which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to convene, in New York from 14 to 16 May 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament, as well to hold a one-day organizational meeting in March prior to the conference. In order to implement the request, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$250,000 to cover, inter alia, the provision of meeting servicing, documentation, webcasting, and website production and maintenance services. These additional resources would be reflected under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 and would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

6. Now, I would like to introduce another Programme Budget Implications related to the draft resolution on the **“Twentieth anniversary and promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,”** in which the General Assembly would decide, *inter alia*, to request the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive assessment and analysis of the ways in which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and in consultation with States, and other United Nations actors, can give due consideration to the adoption of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Conclusions and recommendations of this analysis to be presented in a report to the Assembly at its seventy - third session. In order to implement the request, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$146,000, and would request for general temporary assistance at the P-4 level for 6 months, and related non-post requirements related to travel of 3 high-level international experts, and the production of pre-session documentation. These additional resources for 2018 would be reflected under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$32,200), and under section 24, Human rights (\$113,800). The amount of \$146,000 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018-2019 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge to the contingency fund.

7. Now, I would like to introduce another Programme Budget Implications related to the draft resolution on the “**Effects of terrorism, on the enjoyment of human rights,**” in which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. In order to implement the request, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$80,500, and would request for general temporary assistance at the P-4 level for 3 months, and related non-post requirements to cover the production of pre-session documentation. These additional resources for 2018 would be reflected under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$32,200), and under section 24, Human rights (\$48,300). The amount of \$80,500 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018-2019 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge to the contingency fund.

8. Now, I would like to introduce another Programme Budget Implications related to the draft resolution on the “**Rights of the child,**” in which the General Assembly requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to increase her engagement with States, United Nations bodies and agencies, regional organizations and especially subregional organizations, and to increase public awareness activities, including by collecting, assessing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, in accordance with the existing mandate.

In order to implement the request, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$671,800, and would request for the establishment of two Political Affairs Officer posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4), and related non-post requirements in line with the standard common services costs for New York. These additional resources would be reflected under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 and would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

9. Now, I would like to introduce another Programme Budget Implications related to the draft resolution on the **“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,”** in which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to provide appropriate support to the intergovernmental conference to consider the recommendations of the preparatory committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of 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, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible. The conference is to be held in New York during 2018 through 2020.

In order to implement the request, the Secretary-General proposes additional resources in the amount of \$2,209,800 to cover, *inter alia*, the provision of meeting servicing, documentation, security, and for public information. These additional resources would be reflected under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 28, Public information, and section 34, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 and would represent a charge against the contingency fund. Furthermore, resources for mandated activities to be carried out in 2020 would be included in the proposed programme budget for the respective biennium.

10. Now, I would like to introduce the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates charged against the contingency fund. The Committee would recall that in the context of the budget outline for the biennium 2018-2019, the Assembly decided that the contingency fund should be set at \$41.3 million or 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate for the biennium 2018-2019. Potential new charges to the contingency fund presented in the report amount to \$41.3 million and reflect the information available as at 15 December 2017.

11. Since issuance of the Consolidated Statement report, the Advisory Committee has issued its recommendations on the proposals that would represent a charge against the contingency fund, including those I have just introduced this morning. In addition, the Fifth Committee has made recommendations on the Secretary-General's proposal on the construction for the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, and the Revised estimates relating to the Office of Counter-Terrorism. After account of these recommendations, the potential charges to the contingency fund would amount to \$39.4 million, resulting in a remaining balance of \$1 million. This balance will be adjusted further to reflect the Fifth Committee's recommendations on the various proposals under its consideration.

12. The last items I have the honour to introduce this morning under agenda item 136 are two reports related to the revised estimates arising from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, and for the International Residual mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

13. The reports on revised estimates arising from changes in rates of exchange and inflation provide the updated projections as at December 2017 for inflation and for the effect of the evolution of operational rates of exchange in 2017 and the vacancy rates on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 and the IRM.

In doing so, consistent with past practice, ACABQ recommendations on these reports have been taken into account when available.

14. As a result, the requirements for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 would amount to \$5,552.5 million and to \$232.7 million for the IRM.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.