

Statement by Mr. Johannes Huisman
Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division

on behalf of

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session

Report of the Secretary-General

A/76/303

28 October 2021

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to present the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session which provides information on the budgetary impact arising from Council resolutions 2021/18, entitled “Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti”, and 2021/31, entitled “Follow-up to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

In its last report to the Council (E/2021/65), the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti highlighted some of the complex political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges faced by Haiti and put forward a series of recommendations to help address them in line with its mandate of providing advice on the long-term development strategy of the country.

Since the Group’s report was published, developments in the country have included the assassination of President Moïse in July 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake in August 2021 which resulted in over 2,200 people killed and 12,700 injured, as well as tropical storm Grace which led to widespread landslides. These events are exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and, along with the acute humanitarian needs and structural impediments to sustainable development all point to the need to continuously advocate for the active engagement of the international community in the country to help create the conditions for long-term stability and socio-economic development.

Despite travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic which have prevented the Group from undertaking its traditional activities, the Group has continued to be proactive in seeking solutions to the challenges of Haiti, through leveraging the expertise of a wide range of national, regional and global stakeholders.

Resources are required in 2022 for the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to meet with international financial institutions and the Organization of American States, and to undertake a mission to Haiti. These resources, amounting to an estimated \$47,900, would be accommodated within the overall resources that would be made available for section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

As for ECOSOC resolution 2021/31 relating to the Escazu Agreement, this Agreement was adopted at Escazu, Costa Rica on 4 March 2018, entering into force on 22 April 2021. It is

the only treaty stemming from the UN Rio+20 Conference, and the first regional environmental treaty serviced by ECLAC.

The Agreement provides an institutional path to reshape public-private cooperation and encourages all stakeholders to embrace sustainable development, by granting access to information, fostering public participation and securing access to justice and protection for environmental defenders.

The Escazu Agreement is intertwined with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, has strong synergies with the Paris Agreement, and is people-centered to leave no one behind. In the words of the Secretary-General, this treaty offers a glimmer of hope, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it sets the stage for sustainable and resilient recovery.

The budgetary impact for 2022 relating to resolution 2021/31, amounts to \$500,400 over and above the current level of the proposed programme budget for 2022, and would require an additional appropriation in the amount of \$454,300 under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, representing a charge against the contingency fund, and \$46,100 under section 36, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the Committee,

I thank you for your kind consideration of the present report and we stand ready to respond to any queries the Committee might have.
