

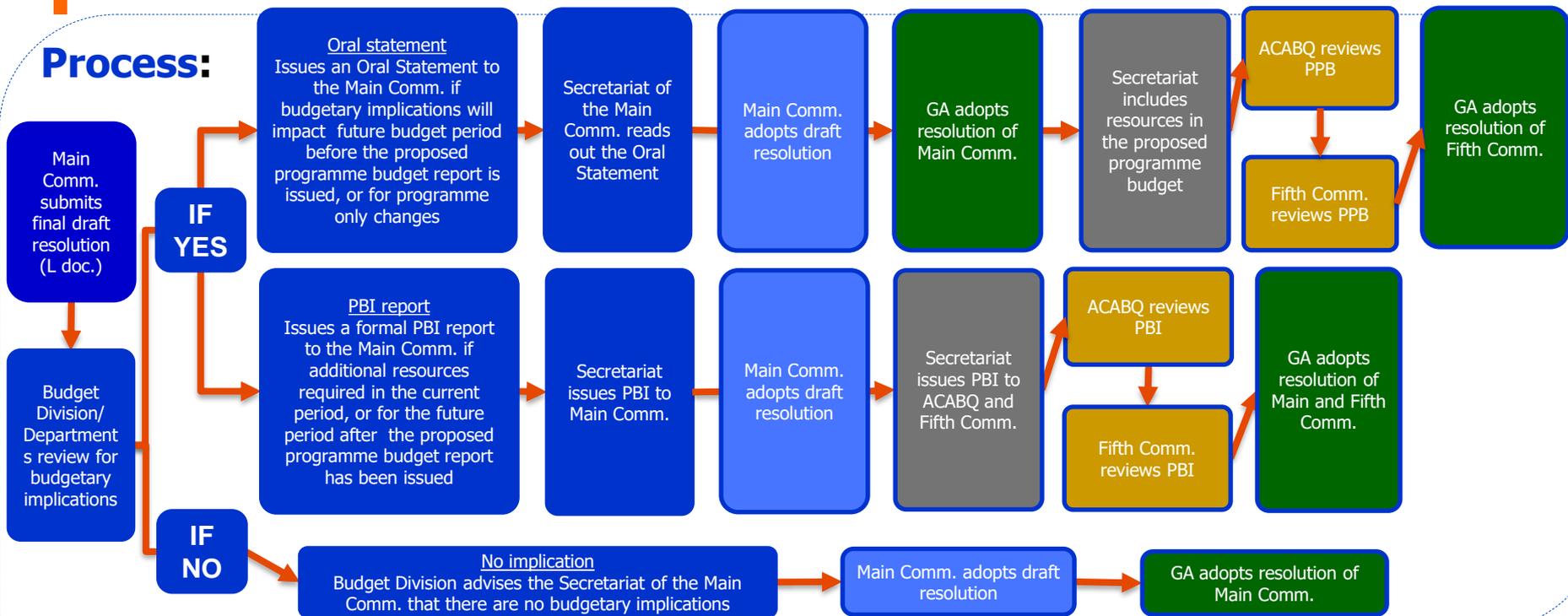
# **Overview of Programme Budget Implications process for the Main Committees of the General Assembly**



Programme Planning and Budget Division  
2022

# Programme Budget Implications: Regulatory framework, Process and Practice for the Main Committees

## Process:



### Regulatory framework:

- GA Rules of procedure, rules 153 and 154
- GA resolutions 45/248 B section VI, 69/321 (para.25), 69/262 (Sect. XII, para.5) and 70/247 (paras. 1-5)
- GA decision 34/401 (paras. 12 and 13)
- Financial Regulations and Rules (ST/SGB/2013/4), regulations 2.10 and 2.11, and rule 102.6
- Programme planning Regulations and Rules (ST/SGB/2016/6), regulation 5.9 and rule 105.8

### Process: Timing for issuance of an Oral Statement or PBI

- Before a final draft resolution/decision (L doc.) is submitted, the Budget Division (PPBD), if approached by the Secretariat of a Main Comm. and after preliminary consultation with relevant Departments, can indicate: whether budgetary implications are expected based on the latest draft; possibly a sense of magnitude of such implications; but no detailed cost estimates (contact: Director, PPBD).
- Once a final draft resolution/decision is submitted, the Secretariat of the Main Comm. submits it to PPBD, which has **a minimum of 48 hours** for consultation with relevant Departments, review and issuance of a formal PBI report or Oral Statement as necessary (GA decision 34/401).

### Practice: Examples of language that may trigger budgetary implications

- Requests the SG to submit a (new) report...
- Requests the SG to establish a dedicated (new) capacity to support...
- Requests the SG to carry out xxx (new) activity...
- Requests the SG to expand/increase the scope/scale of an activity or strengthen the Secretariat's role...
- Decides to convene an open-ended working group/conference/meeting...
- Decides to increase membership of/establish the Committee...
- "Within existing resources" does not preclude budgetary implications.

## Process comparison: oral statements vs PBI reports

	Oral statement	PBI report
<b>Informing the main committee</b> No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General	Oral statement: memo signed by the Director, PPBD	PBI report of the Secretary-General to the main committee, e.g. A/C.3/76/L.88
<b>Budget request / proposal</b>	Proposed programme budget	PBI report of the Secretary-General to the fifth committee A/C.5/76/18
<b>Adoption by the General Assembly of substantive resolution</b>	After the main committee adoption, prior to the consideration of the fifth committee	After consideration of the fifth committee

# What triggers a PBI

*Case by case assessment continues to be required*

	Directed to the Secretary-General, their representative, UN entities and programmes	Directed to external parties: the overall UN common system, civil society, member States
“Requests”, “decides” (new activities)	Request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat to launch a public information campaign for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action [...]	Requests the United Nations system as a whole to cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry and to respond promptly to any request made by it, including with regard to access to all relevant information and documentation;
“Requests”, “decides” (existing activities)	Requests the Secretary-General, to the extent of his authority, to support the reconstruction efforts that are being made by the Government of the Republic of Haiti.  Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution (A/76/L.131 – already included)	
“Calls upon”, “encourages”, “invites”	Invites the Secretary-General to submit, annually, a report to the Council with a compilation and analysis of any available information, from all appropriate sources [...]	Calls upon the international community to scale up its humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation of Haiti, in order to repair and strengthen the country's prospects for achieving sustainable development.

# Budgetary implications influenced by nuances in language

Case by case assessment continues to be required



**Condition 1**  
Binding request for action

**Condition 2**  
New/expanded activities

**Decides...**

**A new report of...**

**Mandates...**

**New consultations...**

**Requests...**

**Additional meetings...**

*In contrast to: encourage, call upon, invites, etc.*

*In contrast to: maintain, continue to, etc.*

*Illustrative examples*

- **Invites** to **explore**... **N**  
(no conditions met)
- **Decides** to **maintain**... **N**  
(only condition 1 met)
- **Invites** a **new report** **N**  
(only condition 2 met)
- **Request** a **new report** **Y**  
(both conditions met; hence, budget implications)

**Condition 1** or **Condition 2** → **No PBIs**

**Condition 1** and **Condition 2** → **PBI triggered**