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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011

Tenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011 (A/66/510). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.
2. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the additional requirements arising as a result of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2011 are estimated at \$572,900 under the regular budget, all of which are expected to be absorbed within the resources proposed under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.
3. The requirements resulting from the adoption of Council resolution 2011/14, on promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in Asia and the Pacific, relate to the provision of interpretation and translation services for the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum. As indicated in paragraph 6 and in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, additional resources in the amount of \$50,000 would be required under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 as a result of the adoption of Council resolution 2011/14. In addition, extrabudgetary resources of \$500,000 would be sought in the biennium 2012-2013 for implementation of the activities requested by the Council in the resolution.



4. In connection with the adoption of Council resolution 2011/23, on the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, the requirements relate to the submission of a report on the role and the work of the Committee in promoting international cooperation in tax matters, and the convening of a one-day meeting in 2012 in conjunction with a special high-level meeting of the Council. As indicated in paragraph 9 and in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, additional requirements of \$79,800 would arise in the regular budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, to translate and issue the report and to provide interpretation services for the one-day meeting (\$74,800); and under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, for the associated conference support costs (\$5,000).

5. The requirements resulting from the adoption of Council resolution 2011/24 relate to the annual meetings of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, comprising one session for a period of three days, which would be held in New York in early January or in the month of August, during the periods of low activity in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings. As indicated in paragraphs 16 and 18 and in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, additional requirements of \$323,200 would arise in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, including a total of \$293,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for the provision of interpreters (\$137,000) and documentation services (\$156,200); and a total of \$30,000 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, for meeting support services.

6. The Advisory Committee notes that paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General, regarding the requirements for the biennium 2012-2013 and beyond, indicates that the Secretary-General may request financial support from a trust fund to be established to support the work of the Committee of Experts. The Advisory Committee notes from the terms of reference of the Committee of Experts, which are contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/2011/89), that its activities would be carried out within existing resources, with no budgetary implications. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Committee of Experts was established within existing resources under the assumption that some Member States would be in a position to facilitate the functioning of the Committee of Experts either through in-kind contributions, such as by hosting meetings, or through contributions to the trust fund, and that, should requirements appear to exceed existing resources, the Committee of Experts would adjust its session schedule accordingly. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the trust fund would facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the work of the Committee of Experts. **The Advisory Committee expects that meetings in New York of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management will be held during the periods of low activity in the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings and trusts that the Secretary-General will engage with the donor community to ensure the broad participation of developing countries.**

7. Regarding the adoption of Council decision 2011/258, the requirements relate to the provision of conference servicing for the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. As indicated in

paragraph 22 and in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, resources in the amount of \$98,000 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013, including \$45,900 for the provision of conference servicing for four meetings of the working group and \$52,100 to cover the translation and issuance of the report of the working group.

8. The requirements resulting from the adoption of Council decision 2011/268 relate to the attendance of members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti at a consultation meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions to be held in Washington, D.C., in February 2012 and a mission to Haiti in April 2012. As indicated in paragraph 26 and in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, resources in the amount of \$21,900 would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, to cover travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for five members of the Advisory Group and for meeting support services in Port-au-Prince.

9. The Secretary-General indicates that no additional appropriations are sought over and above the level of funding of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and that adoption by the General Assembly of the resolutions recommended by the Council at its substantive session of 2011 would not entail any additional requirements for the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (see A/66/510, para. 30).

10. The action required by the General Assembly is set out in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the report of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 31 and 32 of his report.**