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Proposed programme budget for 2024

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.59](#)

Thirty-ninth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2024

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/78/27](#)) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.59](#), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 1 December 2023.

2. It is indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General that, under the terms of operative paragraphs 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 36 of draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.59](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene, in 2025, a fourth international conference on financing for development to, inter alia, assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and to address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to support reform of the international financial architecture;



(b) Welcome the offer by the Government of Spain to host the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development;

(c) Decide to establish an intergovernmental preparatory committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will hold a one-day organizational session in the first quarter of 2024 and up to three sessions, of no more than five days each, in 2024 and up to two sessions, of no more than five days each, in 2025, with the last session taking place in New York, on dates to be decided at the organizational session of the intergovernmental preparatory committee;

(d) Decide that the intergovernmental preparatory committee shall have a Bureau consisting of three members from each regional group and that the committee shall elect two Co-Chairs from among the nominated Bureau members, one from a developed State and one from a developing State, and that the host country and the Chair of the Group of 77 and China shall serve as ex officio members of the Bureau;

(e) Decide that the intergovernmental preparatory committee, during its organizational session in the first quarter of 2024, will adopt decisions and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly on the dates of the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, additional modalities, including inclusive participation, and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

(f) Welcome the offer by the Government of Ethiopia to host one of the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2024 in Addis Ababa as part of the preparatory process of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to review the progress and the gaps in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and identify actions and ideas to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(g) Welcome the offer by the Government of Mexico to host one of the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee as part of the preparatory process of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (A/C.5/78/27, para. 2).

3. The Advisory Committee expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Spain, Ethiopia and Mexico for their offers to host the Conference and sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee.

II. Resource requirements

4. Table 3 of the statement sets out the additional requirements for 2024 and 2025.

Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

	2024	2025	2024–2025
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	362 800	205 200	568 000
Section 9, Economic and social affairs	866 900	1 018 700	1 885 600
Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology	54 100	33 800	87 900
Subtotal	1 283 800	1 257 700	2 541 500

	2024	2025	2024–2025
Section 36, Staff assessment	137 300	137 100	274 400
Total, including staff assessment	1 421 100	1 394 800	2 815 900

5. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate would require interpretation in all six official languages for the one-day organizational session (comprising 2 meetings) in the first quarter of 2024; three sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee (each session consisting of five days and comprising 10 meetings) in 2024; and two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee (each session consisting of five days and comprising 10 meetings) in 2025, with the last session taking place in New York. For documentation services, the translation into all six languages of the United Nations of 15 documents in 2024 and 6 documents in 2025 would be required (*ibid.*, para. 5).

6. For the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the implementation of the mandate would require additional work in 2024 and 2025 to provide substantive support and organizational preparations for and servicing of meetings of the Conference and its intergovernmental preparatory committee. Requirements would include:

(a) General temporary assistance for five positions (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Principal level)) for 10 months in 2024 and 12 months in 2025;

(b) Consultancy services (three consultants each in 2024 and 2025) to provide specialized senior-level expertise (not available in-house) on domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade, debt sustainability and the effectiveness of the follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(c) An outreach, awareness building, knowledge-sharing and advocacy campaign leading up to the Conference (*ibid.*, para. 6). **The Advisory Committee is not fully convinced that the workload justifies the need for three consultants and recommends two consultants instead.**

7. With respect to the general temporary assistance positions, the Senior Economic Affairs Officer (P-5) would provide direct substantive support on financing for sustainable development issues to intergovernmental bodies by offering strategic advice, providing technical guidance and assisting in developing a consensus. The incumbent would supervise a team of staff economists undertaking research and policy analysis on issues related to financing for sustainable development; manage the work unit's contribution to the preparation, servicing and management of meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the organization of thematic and all related events; and conduct resource mobilization (*ibid.*, para. 6 (a) (i)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the work requires deep substantive expertise and detailed knowledge of relevant policy discussions, as many of the issues covered are both technically complex and politically sensitive, and the Senior Economic Affairs Officer would bring together ongoing and lead new research and policy analysis targeted and tailored to provide evidence-based responses and recommendations to questions and challenges emerging from intergovernmental discussions and negotiations. Given the current substantive workload of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, this additional analytical work for Member States could not be provided within existing resources.

8. The Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) would provide substantive support on financing for sustainable development issues to intergovernmental bodies; carry out research and policy analysis on issues related to financing for sustainable development, including drafting reports and taking notes; and organize consultative and other meetings related to the Conference (ibid., para. 6 (a) (ii)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position would also be responsible for managing travel arrangements for Member States to all intergovernmental meetings and for producing reports and documentation required in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations to ensure full accountability, transparency and timeliness of reporting as part of the overall project management role. This additional support to Member States could not be provided within existing resources. The proposed activities are therefore not merely related to the budget and reporting to extrabudgetary donors.

9. The Programme Management Affairs Officer (P-4) would provide substantive support and prepare related documents and reports, develop and implement the Conference programmes and projects and monitor and analyse programme development and implementation (ibid., para. 6 (a) (iii)).

10. The Economic Affairs Officer (P-3) would prepare inputs for reports to intergovernmental bodies, follow intergovernmental meetings of the Conference and prepare summary reports and inputs to statements by members of the Bureau and Secretariat staff. The Senior Programme Management Assistant (General Service (Principal level)) would provide the full range of programme management and implementation assistance required for all activities leading up to and including the Conference and serve as administrative focal point (ibid., para. 6 (a) (iv and v)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the organizational chart of the Financing for Sustainable Development Office, which showed eight P-3 and two P-2 posts. **Noting the levels of the existing posts in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office, and recalling the need for the rejuvenation of the Secretariat (A/78/7, para. 83), the Advisory Committee recommends a general temporary assistance position of Economic Affairs Officer (P-2) instead of the proposed general temporary assistance position at the P-3 level.**

11. For the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the implementation of the mandate would require additional work in 2024 and 2025, including for meetings support and closed captioning for a one-day organizational session and three five-day sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2024 comprising 32 plenary meetings; and two five-day sessions in 2025 comprising 20 plenary meetings (A/C.5/78/27, para. 7).

12. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, with regard to travel of staff, it is envisaged that three trips (one to Asia, one to Africa and one to Latin America) by one staff member per trip would be required for regional consultations as needed. With regard to contractual services, the proposed resource requirements are to provide for: graphic design services and conference branding; an outreach, awareness-building, knowledge-sharing and advocacy campaign that would include services to produce innovative information products, graphics, videos targeting youth and other stakeholders; services to design and operate media zones; and outreach and knowledge-sharing at finance-related conferences and events.

13. The Advisory Committee was also informed upon enquiry that resources previously approved by the General Assembly to support the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (see A/C.5/68/24) included \$1,727,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services; \$18,200 under section 12, Trade and development; and \$63,000 under section 28, Public information. Resources under section 9, Economic and social

affairs, were not included, as they were provided for in connection with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”.

14. Paragraph 16 of the statement ([A/C.5/78/27](#)) indicates that no provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2024 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution and that, at present stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2024 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2024. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2024.

III. Conclusion

15. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are contained in paragraphs 17 to 19 of the statement of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/78/L.59](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$1,239,100 would arise under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2024: (a) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$362,800); (b) section 9, Economic and social affairs (\$822,200); and (c) section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology (\$54,100). The total amount of \$1,239,100 would require an additional appropriation for 2024 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a potential charge against the contingency fund. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$133,600 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2024 and would require an additional appropriation by the Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$133,600 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**
