



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
25 October 2011

Original: English

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## Sixty-sixth session

Agenda item 134

### Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

#### **Revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and section 37, Staff assessment, related to the strengthening of the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi**

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

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and section 37, Staff assessment, related to the strengthening of the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi (A/66/393). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly decided to establish a dedicated post of Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi at the level of Under-Secretary-General in paragraph 53 of its resolution 64/243. In this connection, the Committee notes that the Director-General was appointed with effect from 1 May 2011 (A/66/393, para. 2), 16 months after the decision of the Assembly to establish the post.

3. The Advisory Committee also recalls that during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013, it was informed that consequent to the establishment of that post, the support arrangements in the Office were being reviewed. It was indicated at the time that, in accordance with established procedures, any resulting adjustments to the requirements for 2012-2013 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session in the context of revised



estimates (A/66/7, para. I.25). The Committee notes the reasons provided by the Secretary-General as to why the additional requirements were not incorporated in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/393, para. 1).

4. **The Advisory Committee regrets that the time lapse between the decision by the General Assembly to establish the post of Director-General at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the appointment of the incumbent resulted in a situation in which the related resources could not be presented in a timely manner as part of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The Committee is of the strong view that, had the appointment process been completed on time, it would have been possible to incorporate the proposed resources for the Office in the initial budget proposals. It is also of the opinion that some of the functions being presented at this time constitute routine administrative support; it was not necessary to await the arrival of the Director-General to request the related resources. In this regard, the Assembly and the Committee have repeatedly expressed concern regarding a piecemeal approach to budgeting. The Committee reiterates that issues foreseen during the preparation of the proposed programme budget must be included in the Secretary-General's initial budget proposals (see also A/66/7, para. 31).**

5. **In addition, the Advisory Committee finds the proposal to be significantly lacking in the detailed information and analysis required for its comprehensive review and to enable the General Assembly to make a fully informed decision on the requirements of the Director-General's office (see A/66/7, para. 144). As a result, the Committee had to seek extensive clarification to facilitate its assessment. The Committee emphasizes that all budgetary proposals should be accompanied by complete information and full justification to facilitate decision-making. In formulating its recommendations in the present report, the Committee took into account the information it received upon enquiry.**

## **II. Proposed additional resource requirements**

6. It is indicated in the report of the Secretary-General that for 2012-2013, the additional resource requirements amount to \$427,800 net (\$462,200 after recosting), consisting of \$319,900 for posts and \$107,900 for non-post requirements (A/66/393, para. 6). It is further indicated in the report that for 2014-2015, the delayed impact of the three proposed new posts is estimated at \$200,300 (*ibid.*, para. 7).

### *Recommendations on posts*

7. The Advisory Committee notes that the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi, currently has four posts (1 Under-Secretary-General, 2 P-5 and 1 General Service (Local level)) (*ibid.*, para. 3). The Secretary-General indicates that, while the General Assembly approved the post of the Director-General at the Under-Secretary-General level, it did not appropriate any other post or non-post resources in support of the new Director-General (*ibid.*, para. 8). He further indicates that, in order to augment and strengthen the capacity of the Office in the light of General Assembly resolution 64/243, the establishment of three posts is proposed, as follows (*ibid.*, para. 3):

(a) One P-4 post for a Protocol Officer;

(b) Two Local level posts, one for an Administrative Assistant and another for a Legal Assistant.

The Secretary-General also proposes that the post of Chief of Office (P-5) be reclassified to the D-1 level (*ibid.*, para. 4).

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, prior to the appointment of a dedicated Director-General at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, general protocol responsibilities were carried out by the external relations services in the offices of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and/or the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). With the appointment of the Director-General, it was necessary to acquire independent protocol capacity within the Office of the Director-General. **The Committee is of the view that, since the functions of the requested post are not new, the continuation of the previously existing arrangements or other alternatives for fulfilling those functions should be explored. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to undertake a further review and report thereon in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Pending the outcome of such a review, the Committee does not recommend the establishment of the proposed P-4 post for a Protocol Officer.**

9. **With respect to the proposed establishment of two Local level posts for an Administrative Assistant and a Legal Assistant, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of one Local level post for an Administrative Assistant. It recommends against the approval of the Legal Assistant post. The Committee is of the view that the envisaged function can be jointly provided by the existing Local level staff (see para. 7 above) and the proposed new Administrative Assistant.**

10. As for the proposed reclassification of the post of the Chief of Office from the P-5 to the D-1 level, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that while the general responsibilities of the Office of the Director-General had not changed, the appointment of the Director-General made the implementation of the full mandate of the Office possible. As a result, there was an increase in both the workload and the complexity of the work. The Committee was further informed that former Directors-General/Executive Directors of UNEP or UN-Habitat had been supported in the performance of their functions by the Chiefs of Offices of their respective organizations at the D-1 level. With the appointment of a dedicated Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, it was no longer possible to draw directly upon the resources of the offices of the Executive Directors of UNEP and/or UN-Habitat. **On the basis of the information provided, the Committee recommends acceptance of the reclassification of the P-5 post of the Chief of Office to the D-1 level.**

#### *Recommendations on non-post requirements*

11. The Advisory Committee notes from the revised estimates that, concurrent with the request for additional posts and the reclassification of an existing post, the Secretary-General also proposes an increase in non-post resources for the additional staff (*ibid.*, para. 5). The Committee was informed that the proposed increase of

\$107,900 for non-post requirements for 2012-2013 would provide for other staff costs (\$10,300), travel of staff (\$30,400), contractual services (\$12,800), general operating expenses (\$34,400), supplies and materials (\$6,500) and furniture and equipment (\$13,500).

12. The Advisory Committee enquired about the total revised requirements for travel for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$76,200, including the proposed additional resources of \$30,400. The Committee was informed that the total requirements of \$76,200 for travel would provide for the following: (a) four regional trips annually by the Director-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Darfur and Somalia (\$20,000); (b) three trips annually to United Nations Headquarters for consultations (\$41,800); and (c) two trips during the biennium for other Professional staff (\$14,400). **On the basis of the clarification provided, the Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposed resources for travel.**

13. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed non-post resources. The overall provision for non-post resources should be adjusted to reflect the recommendations of the Committee on posts contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.**

### III. Conclusion

14. The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in paragraph 10 of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates related to the strengthening of the Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Nairobi. The Secretary-General indicates that, should the Assembly agree with his proposals, additional resource requirements would be required, in accordance with the provisions governing the contingency fund and the terms of Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 (*ibid.*, para. 9). In this regard, the Advisory Committee notes that this is one of several proposals being made by the Secretary-General requesting a charge against the contingency fund since the submission of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

15. **The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the proposals of the Secretary-General for post and non-post resources are contained in paragraphs 8, 9 and 13 above. The additional resource requirements for the biennium 2012-2013 proposed in paragraph 10 (c) of the Secretary-General's report should be adjusted taking into account the Committee's recommendations.**