



# General Assembly

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**Report of the Economic and Social Council****Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015****Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions  
adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its  
2014 session****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report details budgetary requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2014 session. The additional requirements for the biennium 2014-2015 arising from those resolutions and decisions are estimated at \$56,300, of which \$5,400 can be absorbed within resources approved for the biennium 2014-2015. The remaining requirements of \$50,900 for the biennium 2014-2015 would be subject to the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211. The requirements of \$13,089,500 for the biennium 2016-2017 will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.



## I. Introduction

1. The implications to the programme of work of the Economic and Social Council arising from the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/1, on the review of the implementation of the Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, included the following, as set out in the annex to the resolution:

(a) The Council should adjust its programme of work to a July-to-July cycle (see para. 5);

(b) The Council should continue to have one substantive and one organizational session. In order to ensure a more responsive Council, it might convene special sessions in accordance with its rules of procedure. The Council, as a principal organ of the United Nations, was also entitled to hold ad hoc meetings as and when needed to address urgent developments in the economic, social, environmental and related fields (para. 10);

(c) The Council should hold the regular meetings of its substantive sessions in New York and the humanitarian affairs segment should continue to alternate between New York and Geneva. On an ad hoc and cost-effective basis, another United Nations location could be decided upon if that would contribute to a better discussion on the chosen main theme (para. 16).

2. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the additional requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its 2014 session (New York, 14-30 January; 18 March; 23 and 25 April; 12, 13 and 25 June; and 9, 14, 16 and 25 July 2014).

3. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including those for which no provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and which would have an impact on the estimates of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with the statements of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions.

4. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 ([A/54/7/Add.2](#)), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its 2014 session related to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and those estimated to be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 are described below and summarized in the annex to the present report.

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<sup>1</sup> The programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 is contained in document [A/68/6](#) (Introduction) and separate budget section documents (Sects. 1-36 and Income sects. 1-3) and related corrigendums. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 will be contained in document [A/70/6](#) (Introduction) and separate budget section documents (Sects. 1-36 and Income sects. 1-3) and related corrigendums.

5. At its coordination and management meetings held in July 2014, the Council could not consider a number of agenda items, which are expected to be taken up in the next coordination and management meeting, to be held on 17 and 18 November 2014. If any related draft resolutions or decisions entail programme budget implications, the respective revised estimates will be issued as an addendum to the present report, as appropriate and if necessary.

## **II. Additional requirements and modifications to the programme of work entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council**

### **A. Resolution 2014/12: Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**

6. Under the terms of paragraph 7 of its resolution 2014/12, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its special meeting to consider international cooperation in tax matters, a report, within existing resources and reflecting the views of Member States, on options for further strengthening the work and operational capacity of the Committee, with an emphasis on better integrating its work into the programme of work of the Council following its reform and effectively contributing to the financing for development follow-up process and to the post-2015 development agenda.

7. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of resolution 2014/12, it was envisaged that the request for the report would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one document of 8,500 words to be issued in all six languages. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$50,900 for documentation services in 2015 (see table 1 below).

8. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 7 of the resolution, the attention of the Council was drawn to the provisions of section IV of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and to subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 68/246, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Table 1  
**Resource requirements for the biennium 2014-2015**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements 2015</i>
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	50 900
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 900</b>

**B. Resolution 2014/14: Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system**

9. Under the terms of paragraph 31 of its resolution 2014/14, the Council noted with appreciation progress achieved in implementing the cost-sharing agreement for the resident coordinator system, noted the funding gap expected for the resident coordinator system for 2014 and 2015, in this regard requested entities of the United Nations development system that had not already done so to take appropriate actions to implement the agreement, subject to the approval of their governing bodies and without impacting programme delivery, including by paying their contribution in full, and requested the Secretary-General to include in his regular reporting to the Council updates on agency-specific progress in that regard.

10. The Council was informed that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/226 and in response to a request from the Council, the principals of the United Nations Development Group had reached an agreement in April 2013 on a centralized funding modality in support of the resident coordinator system. The funding modality is based on a system-wide cost-sharing agreement among all member organizations of the Group and seeks to ensure that resident coordinators have the necessary, stable and predictable resources to effectively fulfil their mandates.

11. As indicated in paragraph 110 of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system ([A/69/63-E/2014/10](#)), the cost-sharing agreement would be based on a global funding scenario of \$121 million annually. Of that amount, \$88 million would be provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of the “backbone” contribution, and \$33 million would be cost-shared by participating agencies, including UNDP. It should be noted that the United Nations Development Group has taken the necessary measures to implement the centralized funding modality starting in January 2014.

12. Given the diverse nature of the Secretariat and the wide range of its normative, analytical and operational activities in the development arena, the agreed cost-sharing formula covers all departments, offices and programmes of the Secretariat that receive funding from the regular budget and that are members and/or observers of the United Nations Development Group. Currently, this comprises 19 members of the Secretariat, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the regional commissions, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General.

13. Based on the cost-sharing formula endorsed by the United Nations Development Group, the projected contribution from the Secretariat is estimated at \$13 million for the biennium 2016-2017. The formula is based on three cost factors, namely: (a) a base fee of \$350,000; (b) the Secretariat's size, in terms of expenditures and head count, excluding humanitarian and peacekeeping aspects; and (c) system load, calculated in terms of the number of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks signed by each department/office.

14. Accordingly, the adoption of Council resolution 2014/14 would entail additional requirements estimated at \$13 million, for the support of the Secretariat to the resident coordinator system, for the biennium 2016-2017. The additional requirements would be considered under section 9, Economic and social affairs, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (see table 2 below).

Table 2

**Resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017**

(United States dollars)

<i>Total requirements 2016-2017</i>	
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	13 000 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 000 000</b>

**C. Decision 2014/210: Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

15. Under the terms of its decision 2014/210, at its 12th plenary meeting, on 23 April 2014, the Council, recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012 and 2013/15 of 23 July 2013, and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, and 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, and having considered the letter dated 31 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Council (E/2014/54), decided to appoint the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

16. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of decision 2014/210, it was expected that the support to be provided to the additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, consisting of airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses related to travel for scheduled missions to Washington, D.C., and Haiti, would amount to \$2,700 in 2014 (see table 3 below).

17. In the consideration of previous resolutions extending the mandate of the Advisory Group, the most recent being 2013/15, the Secretary-General had advised that those requirements would be met within the resources approved under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

18. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is requested as a result of the adoption of the decision.

Table 3

**Resource requirements for the biennium 2014-2015**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements 2014</i>	<i>To be absorbed 2014</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2014</i>
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	2 700	2 700	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 700</b>	<b>2 700</b>	<b>–</b>

#### **D. Decision 2014/221: Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

19. Under the terms of its decision 2014/221, at its 25th plenary meeting, on 13 June 2014, the Council, recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012 and 2013/15 of 23 July 2013 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014 and 2014/210 of 23 April 2014, and having considered the letter dated 13 May 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Council, decided to appoint the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations as an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

20. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of decision 2014/221, it was expected that that the support to be provided to the additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, consisting of airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses related to travel for scheduled missions to Washington, D.C. and Haiti, would amount to \$2,700 in 2014 (see table 4 below).

21. In the consideration of previous resolutions extending the mandate of the Advisory Group, the most recent being 2013/15, the Secretary-General had advised that those requirements would be met within the resources approved under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

22. Accordingly, no additional appropriation would be required should the Council adopt the draft decision.

Table 4  
**Resource requirements for the biennium 2014-2015**  
 (United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements 2014</i>	<i>To be absorbed 2014</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2014</i>
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	2 700	2 700	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 700</b>	<b>2 700</b>	<b>–</b>

**E. Decision 2014/240: Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session, and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session**

23. Under the terms of paragraphs (b) and (c) of its decision 2014/240, the Council decided that the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names would be held in Bangkok from 25 to 29 April 2016; and requested the Secretary-General to render to the Group of Experts at its twenty-ninth session the necessary assistance, including necessary logistical support, interpretation into all six official languages and other essential resources required to guarantee its success.

24. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of decision 2014/240, it was expected that a team of two staff from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management would travel to Bangkok to provide technical assistance during the twenty-ninth session, which would not otherwise be available locally. That would result in additional requirements for travel and subsistence allowances in the amount of \$17,900.

25. In respect of interpretation, the Council was also informed that 20 interpreters would be required to provide interpretation in all six official languages for the 10 meetings to be held during the five-day session, the cost of which would be met from within the existing resources of the Department. Six of the interpreters would be locally recruited; however, the remaining 14 would be recruited internationally, which would entail additional requirements of \$71,600 in respect of their travel and subsistence allowances.

26. Accordingly, the adoption of decision 2014/240 would entail additional requirements of \$89,500, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for the biennium 2016-2017, for the travel of two staff to Bangkok, as indicated in paragraph 24 above, and for interpretation services, as indicated in paragraph 25 above. The additional requirements would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (see table 5 below).

Table 5  
**Resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements 2016</i>
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	89 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>89 500</b>

### III. Overall requirements

27. The implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its 2014 session would give rise to additional requirements of \$56,300 for the biennium 2014-2015, as shown in table 6 below and in the annex to the present report, of which \$5,400 is expected to be absorbed within the relevant section of the approved appropriation for the biennium 2014-2015. Therefore, the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolutions recommended by the Council at its 2014 session would entail additional requirements of \$50,900 for the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The additional requirements of \$13,089,500 for the biennium 2016-2017 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

Table 6  
**Resource requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**

(United States dollars)

	<i>2014-2015</i>			<i>2016-2017</i>	
	<i>Total requirements</i>	<i>To be absorbed</i>	<i>Additional requirements</i>	<i>Additional requirements</i>	
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	50 900	–	50 900	89 500	
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	5 400	5 400	–	13 000 000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56 300</b>	<b>5 400</b>	<b>50 900</b>	<b>13 089 500</b>	

### IV. Contingency fund

28. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. In accordance with paragraph 9 of annex I to resolution 41/213, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, such additional expenditures can only be included in the budget through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.



29. As indicated in section III above, an additional provision of \$50,900 will be required over and above the resources in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. That provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

## **V. Recommendations**

30. Of the consolidated requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council during its 2014 session, only resolution 2014/12 would give rise to additional requirements, namely in the amount of \$50,900, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. No provision has been made under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 to cover those additional requirements. Consequently, an additional provision of \$50,900 is sought over and above the resources of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. That provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015.

31. The General Assembly may also wish to take note of the additional requirements of \$13,089,500 for the biennium 2016-2017, including under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$89,500) and section 9, Economic and social affairs (\$13,000,000), which would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

## Annex

# Summary of additional requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2014 session

(United States dollars)

		<i>Budget section</i>	<i>Total requirements</i>	<i>Requirements to be absorbed in 2014-2015</i>	<i>Additional requirements in 2014-2015</i>	<i>Additional requirements in 2016-2017</i>
<b>A. Economic and Social Council resolutions</b>						
2014/12	Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters	2	50 900	—	50 900	—
2014/14	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	9	13 000 000	—	—	13 000 000
<b>B. Economic and Social Council decisions</b>						
2014/210	Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	9	2 700	2 700	—	—
2014/221	Appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	9	2 700	2 700	—	—
2014/240	Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-eighth session, and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session	2	89 500	—	—	89 500
<b>Total</b>			<b>13 145 800</b>	<b>5 400</b>	<b>50 900</b>	<b>13 089 500</b>