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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 Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2014 session ([A/69/535](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information, concluding with written responses received on 14 November 2014.

2. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 3 of his report that, during its 2014 session, the Economic and Social 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. He also indicates that, in accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with the statements of programme budget implications before the adoption of those resolutions and decisions.

3. The additional requirements for the biennium 2014-2015 arising as a result of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council are estimated by the Secretary-General at \$56,300, of which \$5,400 would be absorbed within resources approved under section 9, Economic and social affairs, while the remaining \$50,900, relating to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015. The estimated additional requirements of \$50,900 relate to the implementation of resolution 2014/12 of the Council, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report to the Council. The Secretary-General indicates that submitting 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 in all six official languages (ibid., para. 7).

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in his report on the pattern of conferences (A/69/120 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General outlined the progress in the application of the integrated global management rule that allows greater efficiency in the production of documentation at Headquarters and the United Nations locations in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, as a result, among other things, of the development of single information technology systems and documentation workload-sharing. The Committee also recalls that, in a recent statement of the Secretary-General, the cost of producing a document of the same volume (8,500 words) in all six official languages by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management was estimated at \$35,100 (see A/C.5/69/4, para. 19). **The Advisory Committee finds no reason why the additional documentation arising from the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council cannot be produced at the same cost, i.e. not exceeding \$35,100. In addition, the Committee notes that the amount represents just 0.04 per cent of the uncommitted allotment balance of \$95.6 million for 2014 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. The Committee therefore recommends that additional requirements of up to \$35,100 relating to the implementation of resolution 2014/12 of the Council be absorbed by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Committee points out that, in this case, the costs of producing the document and of the support provided to the Committee and the General Assembly for consideration of the revised estimate may be higher than the amount of resources requested.**

5. The Secretary-General indicates in sections C and D of his report that additional requirements of \$5,400 would arise as a result of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of decisions 2014/210 and 2014/221 relating to the appointment of additional members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, to be absorbed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to this approach.**

6. Sections B and E of the report of the Secretary-General provide information on additional requirements of \$13 million relating to United Nations support for the resident coordinator system during the biennium 2016-2017 and on additional requirements of \$89,500 relating to the provision of technical assistance and interpretation services to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names during its twenty-ninth session. According to the Secretary-General, the total 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.

7. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that 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. According to the Secretary-General, the cost-sharing agreement would be

based on a global annual funding scenario of \$121 million, of which \$88 million would be provided by the United Nations Development Programme as part of the “backbone” contribution.

8. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 9 of his report that, in its resolution 2014/14, the Economic and Social Council noted with appreciation progress achieved in implementing the cost-sharing agreement for the resident coordinator system and 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. He indicates in paragraph 14 of his report that the adoption of the resolution would entail additional requirements estimated at \$13 million, for the support of the Secretariat to the resident coordinator system, for the biennium 2016-2017. According to the Secretariat, during the adoption of that resolution, the Council was orally informed of a projected United Nations contribution of \$13 million to the funding of the resident coordinator system for the biennium 2016-2017.

9. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 2014/14, the Economic and Social Council requested entities of the United Nations development system to seek the approval of their governing bodies concerning the cost-sharing agreement. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee stresses that the General Assembly has not yet considered the cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system and the related United Nations contribution. The Committee expects that any additional resource requirements relating to the United Nations share of the resident coordinator system will be submitted alongside the proposed cost-sharing arrangement for consideration and approval by the Assembly.**

10. **As regards the additional requirements of \$89,500 relating to the provision of technical assistance and interpretation services to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Advisory Committee will examine the proposal of the Secretary-General in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**
