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Agenda items 74 (a) and 132

Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/69/12](#)) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#), on oceans and the law of the sea, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications concluding with written responses received on 10 December 2014.

Background

2. Pursuant to paragraph 243 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 31 March 2014. The Working Group considered draft recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and guidance for the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process concerning the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment, which had been proposed by the Co-Chairs on the basis of discussions with the Bureau of the Working Group preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment. The report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects ([A/69/77](#)) provides, inter alia, the details concerning the agreed recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and guidance for the Group of Experts of the



Regular Process and the secretariat of the Regular Process concerning the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment.

Requests contained in draft resolution A/69/L.29

3. The Advisory Committee notes that under the terms of paragraph 267 of draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#), the General Assembly would recall its decision that, with the approval of the Bureau,¹ the draft assessment² shall be transmitted for consideration by the Working Group, that the assessment should be available on the website of the Regular Process in the working language of the Group of Experts, that the Secretary-General should endeavour to translate the assessment into all other official languages, subject to the availability of resources in the voluntary trust fund for the purposes of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process, and recall further its decision that the summary of the first global integrated marine assessment should be submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to be issued as an official document of the General Assembly for its final approval by the Assembly at its seventieth session (see para. 2 above).

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/69/12)

4. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General contains information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 (para. 2); (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented (para. 3); (c) estimated resource requirements for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2015 (para. 4); (d) potential for absorption during the biennium 2014-2015 and beyond (para. 5); and (e) information concerning the established procedures related to the contingency fund (para. 6).

5. The additional resource requirements, estimated at \$161,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, have been requested for the documentation workload of one post-session document of 27,500 words in the six official languages of the United Nations.

6. In the context of its consideration of the revised estimates resulting from the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 69/2, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the costs for the documentation workload of one document of 8,500 words in the six official languages of the United Nations across the four duty stations, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, is as follows.

¹ Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

² First global integrated marine assessment.

Duty station	Cost in United States dollars
New York	50,900
Geneva	35,100
Nairobi	17,700
Vienna	29,600

7. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the estimated costs of processing documents for all duty stations are based on a single global costing model that takes into account differences in the processing workflow, scale of operations and prevailing market conditions across duty stations.

8. In the context of the present report, upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with comparative information on the costs of processing two documents of 8,500 words (\$50,900) and 27,500 words (\$161,800), respectively, in New York, which is annexed to the present report.

9. **The Advisory Committee intends to examine the costing model for the processing of official documents by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management at the four duty stations, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, in greater detail in the context of the consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017.**

10. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution [A/69/L.29](#), additional resources in the amount of \$161,800 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.**

Annex

Service	Document of 8,500 words		Document of 27,500 words		Cost		
					Cost per unit (in United States dollars)	8,500 words (in United States dollars)	27,500 words (in United States dollars)
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)=(b)·(e)	(g)=(d)·(e)
Translation and revision ^a	26 pages	49 days to translate	83 pages	157 days to translate	764.09	37 440.41	119 962.13
Text-processing ^b	26 pages	31 days to process	83 pages	98 days to process	307.38	9 528.78	30 123.24
Reproduction ^c	26 pages	51 194 impressed pages	83 pages	163 427 impressed pages	0.07	3 548.97	11 329.41
Distribution ^d	1 document	1 969 documents to distribute	1 document	1 969 documents to distribute	0.19	382.88	382.88
Total						50 900^e	161 800^e

^a Based on a standard of 1.88 work days (rounded) per page to be translated in all official languages.

^b Based on a standard of 1.18 work days (rounded) per page to be processed in all official languages.

^c Based on a historical standard of 1,969 impressions per page.

^d Based on the standard of 1,969 impressions per document.

^e Rounded.