



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 November 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session

Agenda items 134 and 63

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Programme budget implications of draft resolution IX contained in [A/70/23](#)

Twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution IX contained in [A/70/23](#) ([A/C.5/70/4](#)). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 23 November 2015.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 18 and 19 of draft resolution IX contained in [A/70/23](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Approve the report of the Special Committee on decolonization covering its work during 2015, in which the programme of work for 2016 is outlined, in particular the Pacific regional seminar and a visiting mission to one of the Territories on its agenda, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to review and augment the resources at the disposal of the Special Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has the funding, facilities and services commensurate with its envisioned yearly programmes, as mandated in relevant Assembly resolutions, including especially its resolution 69/107, paragraph 7.



II. Resource requirements

3. The Secretary-General indicates that the request for the annual visiting mission to one of the Territories would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of \$269,000 for the biennium 2016-2017 for the following activities (see [A/C.5/70/4](#), para. 4):

(a) Travel of four representatives and four staff of the Special Committee secretariat to the meetings in 2016 and 2017 (one in the Caribbean region and one in the Pacific region) (\$85,000);

(b) Provision of six local interpreters for the meetings in 2016 and 2017 (\$60,000);

(c) Documentation services for the preparation of one post-session document (10,700 words) in six languages each for 2016 and 2017 (\$124,000).

4. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following breakdown of the resource requirements for travel mentioned in paragraph 3 (a) above:

(United States dollars)

Caribbean region	
Average airfare rate, DSA and terminal fees ^a	2 765
Caribbean estimate (eight participants, comprising four Special Committee members and four Secretariat staff (two from DPA and two from DGACM))	22 120
Pacific region	
Average airfare rate, DSA and terminal fees ^a	7 874
Pacific estimate (eight participants, comprising four Special Committee members and four Secretariat staff (two from DPA and two from DGACM))	62 990
Total travel to visiting mission by Committee members and Secretariat staff in 2016-2017^b	85 000

Abbreviations: DGACM, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; DPA, Department of Political Affairs; DSA, daily subsistence allowance.

^a Based on costs of average of four locations in the Caribbean and four locations in the Pacific regions.

^b Cost rounded to the nearest thousand.

5. The Advisory Committee was also informed that two of the proposed Secretariat staff participants would be from the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, comprising one senior representative to provide substantive political advice to the participating Member States of the Special Committee on the decolonization process and the political complexities of that particular Territory and one Political Affairs Officer to update briefing materials, prepare meeting notes and statements for the Chair of the mission and initiate the drafting of the report of the visiting mission. The two other proposed Secretariat staff participants would be from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, comprising the Special Committee Secretary, who provides technical and procedural support and advice to the Special Committee, organizes its programme of work and meetings and facilitates its working methods; and an Administrative/Finance Officer responsible for disbursing

funds at the mission location with the necessary delegation of authority to make payments on behalf of the Organization.

6. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that four Secretariat staff are required to support four Special Committee members during their travels to meetings, especially since some of the proposed functions could be performed in New York prior to travel. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction in travel resources in the amount of \$21,278 (rounded to \$21,300), representing the requested resources for the travel of two Secretariat staff to the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The Committee reiterates its previous comments regarding the judicious use of travel resources (see [A/69/787](#), para. 29).**

7. In respect of the six local interpreters mentioned in paragraph 3 (b) above, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the proposed resources were miscalculated and the provision for local interpreters should be \$40,000 instead of \$60,000, based on a mission of seven days' duration for four local interpreters per year at a daily rate of \$710 per interpreter each for 2016 and 2017, rounded to the nearest thousand. **The Committee notes the miscalculation in the provision for local interpreters, resulting in a reduction in the proposed resource requirements in the amount of \$20,000.**

8. The statement indicates that it is not possible to identify activities within the section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium, and therefore it would be necessary that the requested resources be provided through an additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund (see [A/C.5/70/4](#), paras. 6 and 7). The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that additional resource requirements for a particular biennium are usually charged to the contingency fund of the same biennium; therefore, the additional requirements would have to be charged to the contingency fund provision for the biennium 2016-2017.

III. Conclusion

9. **Taking into account paragraphs 6 and 7 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution IX contained in [A/70/23](#), an additional appropriation of \$227,700 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, representing a charge against the contingency fund.**