



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
11 December 2015

Original: English

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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 133, 134 and 67

### Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

### Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

### Report of the Human Rights Council

## **Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions and twenty-third special session**

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

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions and twenty-third special session ([A/70/562](#)), which was submitted in accordance with the procedure approved in section V of General Assembly resolution 63/263. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 9 December 2015.

#### **Format and presentation**

2. In its previous report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to restructure the report to ensure a concise and streamlined document with a reader-friendly structure and a table of contents, in order to facilitate cross-referencing during its deliberations, and to reduce the length of the report and related document production costs (see [A/69/670](#), paras. 2-3).

3. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in response to that request, the following changes had been made to the presentation of the report: (a) inclusion of a

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 17 December 2015.



table of contents; (b) for resolutions and decisions containing activities of a perennial nature, the requirements of which have already been included in either the programme budget for 2014-2015 or the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017, the report has been streamlined by eliminating the description of the related activities and including only a reference to the relevant operative paragraphs of the related resolution and the table of the related resource requirements; and (c) for resolutions and decisions containing paragraphs in which the Secretary-General is requested to provide all resources and assistance necessary and/or to implement the requested activities from within existing resources, the text has been shortened by establishing a summary of such requests in paragraph 9 of the report and eliminating those paragraphs under each individual resolution.

**4. The Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts made to improve the presentation of the report. It encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts and make further enhancements to facilitate consideration of the document, for instance, by providing a more detailed table of contents to give quick access to individual resolutions, or including a paragraph reference in the summary of resolutions provided in the annex to the report.**

5. The Advisory Committee notes that, since it is a compilation of all the resolutions and decisions taken by the Human Rights Council over a one-year period, the report remains a lengthy and somewhat unwieldy document. The Committee therefore considers it important that, in addition to the above-mentioned improvements in its presentation, efforts should continue towards improving the structure of the report. In the Committee's view it would be helpful if the report were to include an introductory section containing, in concise form, an overview of the content and the changes that have taken place since the issuance of the previous report. This could include, for instance, information on the number of active mandates with their timelines, as well as a breakdown of the number of new, discontinued, expired and continuing mandates, with detailed lists of the mandates being made available upon request, as required. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to continue his efforts to improve the structure of the report with a view to facilitating consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals by the General Assembly.**

#### *Status of expenditures*

6. In response to another recommendation in its previous report (see [A/69/670](#), para. 13) the Advisory Committee was provided with supplementary information on the status of expenditures as at 30 September 2015 for Conference Management, Geneva, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and for section 24, Human rights. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with further details on budget performance and explanations on key variances under different objects of expenditure. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that information on the status of expenditures should be accompanied, as a matter of routine, by explanations/analysis of key variances and relevant information on anticipated expenditure.**

### **Requirements relating to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council**

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that a total of 57 resolutions and decisions with financial implications were adopted during the 2015 sessions of the Human Rights Council as compared with 69 resolutions and decisions in 2014.

8. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the resolutions and decisions having financial implications adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions and twenty-third special session, held in 2015 (see [A/70/53](#) and Add.1), give rise to total resource requirements of \$30,588,100. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the total requirements include an amount of \$10,711,400 relating to activities of a perennial nature, which has already been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The remaining requirements of \$19,876,700 are new requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (\$8,509,400) and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (\$11,367,300).

9. With regard to the new requirements of \$8,509,400 under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, the report of the Secretary-General indicates that: (a) an amount of \$3,681,800 is proposed to be accommodated within the approved appropriations for the biennium 2014-2015; and (b) the remaining amount of \$4,827,600 relates to commitment authorities approved by the Advisory Committee in 2015 under General Assembly resolution 68/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for which appropriations are being sought in the context of the second performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 ([A/70/557](#)), taking into account actual expenditure experience.

10. It is proposed that the new requirements of \$11,367,300 under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 be appropriated; this would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2016-2017. As indicated in the report, the amount comprises \$3,354,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, \$7,991,800 under section 24, Human rights, \$4,200 under section 28, Public information, and \$16,700 under section 29F, Administration, Geneva.

#### *Proposed staffing requirements*

11. The Secretary-General proposes to establish three new P-3 posts under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to support the activities mandated by the Council in its resolutions 28/6 and 28/16 and President's statement 29/1. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following table summarizing the proposed staffing requirements.

<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Title of resolution</i>	<i>Number of posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Reference</i>
28/6	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism	1	P-3	Human Rights Officer	To support new Independent Expert	Para. 19 (a)
28/16	The right to privacy in the digital age	1	P-3	Human Rights Officer	To support new Special Rapporteur	Para. 42 (a)
PRST 29/1	Enhancing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council	1	P-3	Human Rights/ Web Content Management Officer	To manage the development of new website in all official languages and provide substantive support in maintaining and updating the website	Para. 143 (b)
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>				

12. A post for a Human Rights/Web Content Management Officer (P-3) is proposed in the context of the activities related to President's statement 29/1, on enhancing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council. As indicated in paragraph 143 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General, the establishment of a P-3 post is proposed for the ongoing maintenance and updating of the Human Rights Council website after the implementation of the new design. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that at the time of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 24)), it had been informed that the Information Management and Technology Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) comprised 9 regular budget (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 P-2 and 4 General Service (Other level)) and 13 extrabudgetary posts (1 P-3, 12 General Service (Other level)). In addition one Information Technology Officer (P-2) post was identified for freezing of recruitment for a period of 24 months (see A/70/7, para. VI.21). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, at present, a total of 6 staff were dedicated to the maintenance of the website, comprising 2 extrabudgetary posts at the P-4 and P-3 levels for Web Officers, and 4 regular budget posts for one Web Services Chief (General Service (Principal level)) and 3 Web Assistants (General Service (Other level)). **In view of the existing capacity, the Advisory Committee recommends against approval of the proposed post for a Web content manager (P-3). Any post-related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

13. The other activities related to the implementation of the requests contained in the President's statement are outlined in paragraph 143 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee notes that these include a provision of \$174,600 for the biennium 2016-2017 for interpretation services for the interviews conducted by the Consultative Group, as required, and sound technician/recording services. As indicated in the report, the Human Rights Council decided that candidates shortlisted by the Consultative Group may request to be interviewed in any official language of the United Nations.

14. The Secretary-General proposes establishment of one P-3 post for a Human Rights Officer (12 months per year) and general temporary assistance at the P-3 level (six months per year), to support the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (resolution 28/6; A/70/562, para. 19 (a)). The Advisory Committee requested clarification on the relationship between the

functions of the above-mentioned staffing resources and those proposed (general temporary assistance at the P-3 level for a period of 3 months) in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1 \(A/C.5/70/15\)](#), on persons with albinism, adopted by the Third Committee. The Advisory Committee was informed that the comprehensive report requested by the General Assembly under the terms of operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution [A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1](#) represented a new request to the Secretariat, and that efforts would be made to meet the related additional requirements using the staffing proposed to support the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism. Accordingly, no additional appropriation was requested for section 24 in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1 \(A/C.5/70/15\)](#).

15. With regard to resolution 30/3, the Advisory Committee requested but did not receive explanations on the increase in the number of participants in the workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights from 35 in the previous year to 42. **The Committee trusts that the information requested will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

16. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a table on the number and grade levels of general temporary assistance positions resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions, with a breakdown by division/unit as well as details on the existing capacity (2014-2015). The information provided is attached as annex I to the present report.

#### **Costs of interpretation and documentation**

17. The Advisory Committee found the different estimates for interpretation costs provided in the report to be confusing and lacking in consistency. In response to its request for clarification on the unit cost of interpretation at different duty stations, and explanations on the calculation of those costs, the Advisory Committee was provided with some data and examples which are included in annex II to the present report. **Notwithstanding the information provided, the Advisory Committee remains unclear as to the composition of the costs of interpretation and the manner in which they are estimated at different duty stations.**

18. With regard to the estimates regarding documentation, the Advisory Committee recalls that, at the time of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017, it had been provided with information on the standard costs of processing one document in each duty station (see [A/70/7](#), table I.5 and paras. I.62-I.64; see also [A/69/656](#), para. 9 and annex), showing that the 2015 costs amounted to \$50,900 at New York, \$30,600 at Geneva, \$29,619 at Nairobi and \$33,485 at Vienna. At the time of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences ([A/70/122](#)), the Committee had been informed that to address the high vacancy rate in the French Translation Service at Headquarters, which is in part due to the preference of translators to work at European duty stations, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had developed a plan which includes the outposting of five translators from the Service at Headquarters to the United Nations Office at Vienna (see [A/70/432](#), para. 15). This could present a

number of advantages, including lower staff costs owing to lower post adjustment rates and overnight processing, taking advantage of the time difference between New York and Vienna.

19. **The Advisory Committee notes that the question of the costs of interpretation and the processing of documentation by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has broad implications across all budget sections.** In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that, at the time of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017, it was informed that a working group on costing had been established in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to develop a unified methodology and coherent process for updating costings across all duty stations, and that the results and conclusions of the working group would be reported to the General Assembly at the main part of the seventieth session (see [A/70/7](#), para. 1.62). As at the date of the issuance of the present report, the conclusions of the working group had not yet been provided to the General Assembly.

20. **The Advisory Committee stresses the need for reliable information on the standard unit costs of interpretation and the processing of documentation at each duty station for proper assessment of proposals for resource requirements. The Advisory Committee therefore expects the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly, before the end of the main part of its seventieth session, information on the conclusions of the above-mentioned working group on costing on a unified methodology and coherent process for updating costings, including information on the unit costs of interpretation and processing of documentation.**

21. **The Committee further recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to include in his next report on revised estimates resulting from the resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council fully transparent information on the unit costs applied and other factors used to estimate the costs of interpretation and production of documentation at different duty stations.**

22. **The Advisory Committee also recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure transparency of information on unit costs in all future relevant budget submissions, including the proposed programme budget and performance reports.**

#### **Official travel**

23. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in response to the request contained in its previous report ([A/69/670](#), para. 20), the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 ([A/70/557](#)) contained analysis and details on standard costs regarding travel arrangements for Special Rapporteurs. The Advisory Committee discusses this matter in its related report.

24. The Advisory Committee was further informed that special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteurs, were entitled to travel expenses and subsistence allowances in respect of members of organs or subsidiary organs of the United Nations ([ST/SGB/107/Rev.6](#)), which include: (a) business class accommodation for all official travel; and (b) additional 40 per cent of the applicable daily subsistence allowance rates. The Committee was also informed that

for country visits, as the eventual destinations for the field missions are not known, generic costs are applied for all mandates, as follows: \$5,000 per trip and an average daily subsistence allowance rate of \$350. Travel costs of staff members accompanying the mandate holders were budgeted at a lower standard rate of \$3,000 per trip and average daily subsistence allowance rate of \$250, based on the official rules for staff travel.

25. The Advisory Committee requested additional information on the budgeted requirements and actual expenditures incurred in 2013 and 2014 for travel of special procedures mandate holders and accompanying staff, including details on total expenditures and average costs of air tickets, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, as well as information on the total number of trips and their average duration. The Committee was provided with information on the budgeted and actual expenditures by subprogramme under the categories of expenditure travel of representatives and travel of staff. It was informed that, while details on the number of trips by mandate and the average duration of trips were not available owing to the limitation of the IMIS system, information on the overall number of trips had been compiled since 2014, showing that a total of 80 trips were undertaken by special procedures mandate holders in 2014, and that, as at 15 October 2015, a total of 69 trips had been taken.

26. **The Advisory Committee observes, once again, that the lack of detailed information hinders its ability to analyse the proposed requirements for travel. The Committee continues to stress that data on travel at a sufficient level of detail is needed to assess whether the resources provided are used in the most efficient and effective manner possible (see [A/70/7](#), paras. 109-113). In this regard, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has on numerous occasions requested that it be provided with detailed data on travel, in particular at the time of its consideration of the proposed programme budget (see General Assembly resolutions 65/268 and 67/254). The Advisory Committee expects that detailed information on the trips undertaken is being recorded in the enterprise resource planning system, Umoja, recently deployed Secretariat-wide, and that the details requested will be made available at the time of its consideration of the next report of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee also expects that the requests of the General Assembly for detailed information on travel, and its own recommendations on this matter (see [A/69/787](#)) are being taken into account in the design of the next phases of Umoja, in particular the budget module.** The Committee comments further on this matter in the context of its report on the second performance report for the biennium 2014-2015.

## **Other matters**

### *Regional offices*

27. The Advisory Committee was informed that, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, a total of 35 posts were established effective 1 January 2015 under section 24, Human rights (see the report of the Fifth Committee ([A/68/820](#))). These included 10 posts for Human Rights Capacity-Building Officers (P-3) to be deployed in 10 regional presences and 6 posts in Geneva as part of the Treaty Bodies Capacity-Building Programme. Upon



enquiry, the Advisory Committee was further informed that the 10 Human Rights Capacity-Building Officers were deployed to the regional presences of OHCHR at Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut, Bishkek, Dakar, Panama, Pretoria, Santiago de Chile, Suva and Yaoundé. Upon enquiry the Advisory Committee was informed that 6 of those 10 regional presences had regular budget resources, mainly pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/1 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome (see [A/68/779](#), annex II, para. 3 (a); and [A/68/807](#), para. 13). Four of the 10 presences (Addis Ababa, Beirut, Pretoria and Suva) were previously funded from extrabudgetary resources only.

28. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General proposed a regional restructuring in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017 ([A/70/6](#) (Sect. 24)). The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations regarding the Secretary-General's proposals are contained in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, currently before the General Assembly ([A/70/7](#), paras. VI.6-VI.12).

#### *Universal periodic review process*

29. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the intersessional half-day panel discussion proposed under resolution 30/25, which will take advantage of existing capacities during the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (see [A/70/562](#), para. 196), will not have an impact on the meetings of the Working Group or the universal periodic review process.

#### **Conclusion and recommendations**

30. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraphs 210 and 211 of the report of the Secretary-General. **Subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraph 12 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General.**



## Annex I

### Proposed general temporary assistance requirements for the biennium 2016-2017 resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions

<i>Subprogramme</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Months</i>	<i>Number of staff</i>	
<b>1. Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, research and analysis</b>					
Current capacity (2014-2015):					
Established posts: 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 32 P-4/3, 3 P-2 and 9 General Service (Other level)					
Temporary posts: 2 P-4/3 and 1 General Service (Other level)					
General temporary assistance requirements in the revised estimates:					
Resolution 28/29	P-3	Combating intolerance	3	1	One-time
Resolution 28/13	P-3	Birth registration	3	1	One-time
Resolution 28/14	P-3	Democracy and rule of law	6	1	Recurrent
	GS	biennial forum	4	1	(once per biennium)
Resolution 29/19	GS	Social Forum	3	1	One-time
Resolution 29/8	GS	Forced marriage	3	1	One-time
Resolution 29/10	P-4	Use of firearms	3	1	One-time
Resolution 29/11	P-3	Negative impact of corruption	3	1	One-time
Resolution 29/15	P-3	Human rights and climate change	4	1	One-time
Resolution 29/22	P-3	Protection of the family	3	1	One-time
Resolution 30/11	P-3	Expert Mechanism on indigenous peoples	3	1	One-time
	GS		2	1	One-time
Resolution 30/28	P-3	Right to development	3	1	One-time
Resolution 30/8	P-4	Meeting on HIV/AIDS	5	1	One-time
Resolution 30/13	P-4	Human rights of peasants	3	1	One-time
Resolution 30/15	P-3	Preventing violent extremism	6	1	One-time
Resolution 30/9	P-3	Equal participation in political and public affairs	6	1	One-time
	GS		2	1	One-time
<b>2. Supporting human rights treaty bodies</b>					
Current capacity (2014-2015):					
Established posts: 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 55 P-4/3, 6 P-2 and 17 General Service (Other level)					
General temporary assistance requirements in the revised estimates:					
Resolution 29/1	P-3	International Covenants on Human Rights	2	1	One-time

<i>Subprogramme</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Months</i>	<i>Number of staff</i>	
<b>3. Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</b>					
Current capacity (2014-2015):					
Established posts: 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 16 P-5, 63 P-4/3, 5 P-2, 17 General Service (Other level), 4 Local level and 1 National Professional Officer					
General temporary assistance requirements in the revised estimates:					
Resolution 29/21	P-3	Minorities in Myanmar	4	1	One-time
Resolution 30/18	P-4	Technical assistance for Yemen	9	1	One-time
	P-3		9	2	One-time
Resolution 30/21	P-4	Technical cooperation and capacity-building	1	1	One-time
Resolution 30/24	P-4	National policies	1	1	One-time
Resolution 30/1	P-4	Human rights in Sri Lanka	15	1	One-time
Resolution 29/18	1 P-5, 1 P-4 and GS	Commission of Inquiry for Eritrea	6	1	One-time
	1 P-4 and 3 P-3		5	1	One-time
	1 P-3		4	1	One-time
	1 P-3		1	1	One-time
Resolution 29/13	1 P-5 and 1 GS	OHCHR mission in South Sudan	2	1	One-time
	3 P-4 and 4 P-3		1	1	One-time
<b>4. Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms</b>					
Current capacity (2014-2015):					
Established posts: 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 5 P-5, 53 P-4/3, 6 P-2 and 9 General Service (Other level)					
Temporary posts: 2 P-4/3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (Other level)					
General temporary assistance requirements in the revised estimates:					
Resolution 28/6	P-3 GS	Albinism	6 6	1 1	Recurrent (annual)
Resolution 28/16	P-3 GS	Privacy in the digital age	6 6	1 1	Recurrent (annual)
Resolution 30/14	P-4	Contribution of parliaments to the universal periodic review	2	1	One-time
Resolution 30/25	P-4	Support for national human rights follow-up systems	2	1	One-time

## Annex II

### Examples of estimation of the costs of interpretation

#### *Resolutions 28/5 and 30/3*

A total amount of \$6,400 is proposed under resolution 28/5 for interpretation for one meeting (half a day) in New York, whereas under resolution 30/3 a total of \$24,800 is proposed for four meetings (two full days) in Geneva. Upon request for clarification as to why the cost of the four meetings was not equivalent to four times the cost of the single half-day meeting ( $4 \times \$6,400 = \$25,600$ ), the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimated requirements under resolution 28/5 covered costs for interpretation in three United Nations languages whereas interpretation in all six official languages was required under resolution 30/3.

The Committee was also informed that interpretation costing varied according to the number of languages required and the duration of the meeting: the higher the number of required languages and the longer the duration of the meeting, the higher the cost.

The Committee notes that the response given appears to indicate that the cost of interpretation in six languages in Geneva is less than the cost of interpretation in three languages in New York.

The Committee was further informed that the cost of one meeting (half a day) with interpretation in all six official languages in New York was \$11,500, comprising \$10,757 for interpretation, \$436 for a Conference Officer and \$307 for a Documentation Clerk.

#### *Resolution 28/9*

A total amount of \$85,800 is proposed under resolution 28/9, on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimated annual requirement of \$85,800 covered costs for the recruitment of three interpreters for a total of 20 days each for interpretation from local languages into one of the official languages of the United Nations, as well as costs of air tickets and daily subsistence allowance for the three interpreters because at the time of preparation of the estimates it was not possible to determine whether interpreters meeting United Nations standards could be recruited locally. Upon enquiry, the Committee was also provided with the following breakdown of the proposed requirement of \$85,800:

- (a) Salaries for three interpreters for 20 days each at the rate of \$840 per day per interpreter (\$50,400);
- (b) Travel ticket costs for three interpreters each to two field missions at the rate of \$3,000 per ticket (\$18,000);
- (c) Daily subsistence allowance for three interpreters for a total of 66 days at the rate of \$250 per day (\$16,500);
- (d) Terminal expenses for three interpreters at the rate of \$152 per person per mission (\$900).

*Unit costs*

Upon request for information on the unit costs of interpretation at New York and Geneva, the Advisory Committee was informed that, for two meetings (one day) with interpretation in all six official languages, the Division of Conference Management at Geneva provided 14 interpreters at the rate of SwF 784 per day, resulting in a total cost of SwF 10,976 or \$11,764 (at the exchange rate of US\$1=SwF 0.933).

Upon request for clarification on the calculation of the daily rate for interpretation of SwF 784, the Committee was further informed that 85 per cent of the workload of the Division of Conference Management in Geneva was taken care of by permanent staff and 15 per cent by freelance interpreters. The daily rate was calculated based on the weighted average formula of permanent versus when actually employed staff. The daily rate consisted of the weighted average of the salary of staff (at the P-4 and P-5 levels) and the world rate for interpreters locally recruited

The Committee notes that the information provided indicates that the costs for the provision of interpretation services in New York are higher than those of equivalent services provided in Geneva.

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