



# General Assembly

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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 134 and 28 (a)

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

**Social development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**

## Persons with albinism

### Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1

#### Thirty-fourth 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 the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/70/15), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1 on persons with albinism. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 7 December 2015.

2. In paragraph 2 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that, under the terms of paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report, using existing resources and mechanisms, including the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism, to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Social development", on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and would encourage the Secretary-General to gather information from all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for the preparation of the report.



*Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*

3. In paragraph 4 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a comprehensive report on persons with albinism. He further indicates that additional resources for general temporary assistance at the P-3 level for a period of three months in 2017 would be required to research and compile the necessary information needed for the drafting of the report. The Secretary-General indicates that the related amount of \$40,800 would be accommodated in the proposed biennium budget for 2016-2017 under section 24, Human rights.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 28/6, decided to appoint an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, and that the staffing requirements to support this new Independent Expert were proposed in the report 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) under section 24, Human rights. The Committee considered this issue in its report on the revised estimates (A/70/7/Add.28).

*Department for General Assembly and Conference Management*

5. In paragraph 6 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the documentation requested in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one pre-session document of 8,500 words in all six official languages. This would entail additional requirements amounting to \$50,900 in 2016.

6. According to the Secretary-General, at the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. According to the Secretary-General, it is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of \$50,900 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

7. In the context of its consideration of the revised estimates resulting from the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 69/2, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the cost of processing one document of 8,500 words in the six official languages of the United Nations across the four duty stations was as follows: New York (\$50,900), Geneva (\$30,600), Vienna (\$33,485) and Nairobi (\$29,619) (see A/70/7, table I.5; see also A/69/656, paras. 6-9 and annex). A related matter concerns standard unit costs for the processing of documentation at each duty station and the costing methodology applied for documentation. At the time of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017, the Committee 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 its seventieth session (see A/70/7, para. I.62). As at the date of issuance of the present report, the conclusions of the working group had not yet been provided to the General Assembly. **The Committee notes that the question of the cost of the processing of documentation by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has broad implications across all budget sections. The Committee stresses the need for reliable information on the standard unit costs for the processing of documentation at each duty station for proper assessment of proposals for resource requirements. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide to it, 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 for processing documentation (see A/70/7/Add.28, paras. 17-20).**

8. Upon enquiry as to the reason for presenting a request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,900 at an early stage in the budget process, the Advisory Committee was informed that the budget for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for the biennium 2016-2017 had yet to be approved.

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb the additional requirements (\$50,900) requested under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017; if, despite such efforts, the requirements cannot be absorbed, the additional expenditures related to the implementation of the activities arising from draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1 should be reflected in the relevant performance report for the biennium.**

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