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Agenda items 134, 15, 19 and 116

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Fortieth 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 the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/70/589).

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that agreement was reached on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015 (A/CONF.222/20), and that the outcome of the conference was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015. The Committee further recalls that the draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015



development agenda was submitted by the President of the General Assembly on 12 August 2015 and that the General Assembly, on 25 September 2015, adopted its resolution 70/1 on the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

3. From paragraph 3 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee notes that in both instances of its endorsement of the two outcome documents, the statements of the programme budget implications provided to the General Assembly did not include detailed estimates of anticipated expenditures arising from the adoption of its resolutions 69/313 and 70/1. **In view of the interval of time between the dates of adoption of the outcome documents and their endorsement by the General Assembly,¹ and also taking into account the fact that the proposals of the Secretary-General reflect resource requirements relating only to the immediate implementation of the mandates called for in the outcome documents (see A/70/589, para. 4), the Committee is of the view that greater efforts could have been made, in strict adherence to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to provide such detailed estimates to the Assembly prior to its endorsement of the outcome documents.**

4. The advance version of the report of the Secretary-General was made available to the Advisory Committee on 4 December 2015, and the Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General on 7 December 2015. The Committee was provided with partial responses to its requests for clarification on 11 December 2015. The Committee sought clarification regarding the reason for the late submission of the report of the Secretary-General, given the considerable period of time that had elapsed since the endorsement of the outcome documents by the General Assembly on 27 July and 25 September 2015 and the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on 4 December 2015, but it did not receive a convincing explanation.

5. **The Advisory Committee considers the delay in the submission of the report to be unwarranted in view of its scope, and given that the report, as indicated above, singly addresses the issues for which there is a clear mandate in the outcome documents. The Committee notes that the late submission of the report has impeded its ability to properly examine the proposals of the Secretary-General and to provide its observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly. The Committee therefore expects the Secretary-General to provide a full explanation for the causes of the late submission of his report and to ensure accountability for this situation.**

6. **Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee is not in a position to pronounce itself on the proposals of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. In order to ensure that the**

¹ In the case of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcome document was adopted on 16 July 2015 and endorsed by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015. In the case of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the draft outcome document was submitted by the President of the General Assembly on 12 August 2015 and endorsed by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015.

implementation of activities related to the two outcome documents can commence as from the beginning of January 2016, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$7,547,300 in the first year of the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee will revert to its consideration of the proposals of the Secretary-General during the course of its next session.

7. During its meeting with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as indicated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report of the Secretary-General, further assessment and consultations with all stakeholders will be required in order to determine how the decisions contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are to be implemented. Furthermore, in line with paragraph 90 of General Assembly resolution 70/1, it is the intent of the Secretary-General to submit a report for the consideration of the resumed seventieth session of the General Assembly, in preparation for the 2016 meeting of the high-level political forum, outlining critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review. The Committee was further informed that the resolutions adopted by the main committees of the General Assembly and/or by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies could also give rise to requests for additional requirements.