

**Seventieth session**

Agenda item 134

**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017****Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2016-2017****Tenth report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General ([A/70/349](#)) on the request for a subvention of \$584,600 (before recosting) to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2016-2017. During its consideration of the request, the Committee met with the Director of the Institute, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with written responses received on 30 October 2015.

2. The request for a subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium 2016-2017 is presented by the Secretary-General in accordance with part IV, paragraph 2, of resolution 60/248, in which the General Assembly endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to UNIDIR be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium. The Advisory Committee notes that the request is consistent with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, which includes, under section 4, Disarmament, a provision for \$584,600 (before recosting), representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium ([A/70/6](#) (Sect. 4), para. 4.42). The Committee further notes that in the proposed programme budget, extrabudgetary resources for the Trust Fund for UNIDIR for 2016-2017 are projected at \$4,872,400 (*ibid.*, para. 4.18).

3. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed provision of \$584,600 for UNIDIR for 2016-2017 will be subject to recosting in accordance with the established procedures pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/264 ([A/70/349](#), para. 3). The Advisory Committee recalls that the subvention in the amount of \$577,800 for 2012-2013 was not recosted (see [A/68/7/Add.1](#), paras. 3-6). The Committee was informed



upon enquiry that had recosting been continuous, the level of the proposed subvention for 2016-2017 would amount to \$682,900, compared with the current amount of \$584,600 proposed for the biennium 2016-2017. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its expectation that the Secretary-General will ensure that the established procedures for recosting will be fully complied with in the future (ibid., para. 3).**

**4. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the request for the subvention of \$584,600 (before recosting) from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017, for which the provision has already been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the same biennium.**

#### **Financial sustainability of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**

5. In his note on the request for a subvention for UNIDIR (A/70/349, paras. 1 and 3), the Secretary-General indicates that the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, had approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the report of the Director of the Institute on its activities for the period from January to December 2014 and the proposed programme of work and estimated resource requirements for 2015 and 2016 (see A/70/177).<sup>1</sup> The Board of Trustees had emphasized the observations and recommendations contained in that report, in particular those in paragraphs 23 to 30 regarding the next steps for Member States to ensure the sustainability of the Institute. In his report on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/70/186, para. 39), the Secretary-General further indicates that the Board had stressed that the purchasing power of the subvention had decreased substantially. The Advisory Committee notes that the two reports (A/70/177 and A/70/186) have been considered by the First Committee of the General Assembly.

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that following the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services with respect to the development of a sustainable funding strategy in 2011, the Institute was asked to submit to the Secretary-General a proposal outlining a sustainable funding structure, comprising regular and extrabudgetary funding, required to achieve the UNIDIR mandate and objectives (A/68/7/Add.1, para. 7). The Committee also recalls that it had been previously informed that the Director of UNIDIR had submitted a related proposal in August 2013; however, the Secretary-General had not responded to that proposal in the light of a broader proposal contained in a separate report (see also para. 10 below).<sup>2</sup>

7. Article VII, paragraph 2, of the UNIDIR statute provides that:

A subvention towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute may be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations. The

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to the consideration of the report of the Director by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) at its sixty-fourth session (from 29 June to 1 July 2015), the Advisory Committee considered the draft report of the Director in June 2015 and provided comments and recommendations on relevant matters for the Board's consideration in accordance with article VIII.2 of the statute of UNIDIR.

<sup>2</sup> In compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/45, the Secretary-General submitted a separate report containing a proposal to consolidate the United Nations institutions dedicated to research, training and library services (A/68/485). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Council, at its coordination and management meeting, held from 8 to 10 June 2015, did not include any discussion related to UNIDIR.

actual amount of any subvention shall be determined in accordance with article VIII of this statute; it may be less than, but shall not exceed, an amount equivalent to one half of the assured income of the Institute from voluntary sources in respect of the year for which a subvention is being requested.

Upon request, the Committee was provided with information for the period from 2006 to 2015, comprising the actual amounts of the biennial subvention and the cost of the Director of UNIDIR (see table 1 below); and indicative amounts of annual subvention, if the maximum limit of 50 per cent of annual voluntary contributions were applied, and the cost of the institutional staff of UNIDIR (see table 2 below).

Table 1  
**Actual amount of subvention and cost of Director of UNIDIR, for the bienniums 2006-2007 to 2014-2015**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2006-2007	2008-2009	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015
Actual amount of subvention	476.5	485.5	558.2	577.8	584.6
Cost of Director (D-2)	514.6	473.6	654.8	609.4	567.4

Table 2  
**Indicative amount of subvention<sup>a</sup> and cost of institutional staff, 2006 to 2015**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Indicative amount of subvention <sup>a</sup>	1 376.6	1 061.3	902.0	1 204.7	1 502.7	1 372.7	1 850.5	1 411.4	1 074.1	1 223.6
Cost of institutional staff	663.7	461.8	594.1	750.4	646.2	823.6	812.0	669.2	736.7	1 075.8

<sup>a</sup> If the maximum limit of 50 per cent of annual voluntary contributions were applied.

8. The Advisory Committee recalls that at the time of the founding of UNIDIR, the institutional staff consisted of the Director (D-1) and two General Service staff (A/68/7/Add.1, para. 6). The Committee notes from the report of the Director that the institutional staff currently comprises the Director (D-2) and four other staff as follows: the Chief of Operations (P-5), a Budget and Finance Officer (P-3), an Administrative Assistant (G-6) and a Publications and Meetings Secretary (G-5) (A/70/177, para. 17). The projected costs for the five institutional staff for 2015 and 2016 are contained in annex I to that report.

9. On a related matter concerning the impact of the implementation of the new United Nations enterprise resource planning programme, Umoja, the Director indicates in his report that the two distinct challenges arising from the implementation would be the cost implications related to the conversion of UNIDIR contracts to United Nations appointments; and the requirement for a significantly higher amount of financial liquidity than UNIDIR has ever had (A/70/177, paras. 21 and 22).

10. The Advisory Committee understands that the matter related to the financial sustainability and a potential funding strategy of UNIDIR is under consideration by the General Assembly.