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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children

Rights of the child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.21/Rev.1](#)

Fortieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/72/16](#)) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.21/Rev.1](#) on the rights of the child. 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 11 December 2017.

2. The statement indicates that, under the terms of paragraph 41 (c) of draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.21/Rev.1](#), the General Assembly would request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to increase her engagement with States, United Nations bodies and agencies, regional organizations and especially subregional organizations, and to increase public awareness activities, including by collecting, assessing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, in accordance with the existing mandate ([A/C.5/72/16](#), para. 2).

II. Resource requirements

3. Paragraph 12 of the same statement indicates that, to implement those requests, additional requirements in the amount of \$671,800 (including a non-recurrent



provision in the amount of \$86,200) would arise under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination (\$524,800), and section 29D, Office of Central Support Services (\$147,000), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

4. Under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, the proposed amount of \$524,800 would provide for two posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) (\$442,700); travel of staff (\$70,000); contractual services (\$6,500); general operating expenses (\$2,800) and furniture and equipment (\$2,800). Under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, the proposed resources of \$147,000 comprise general operating expenses (\$126,400) and furniture and equipment (\$20,600).

5. The statement indicates that no provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of those activities and that it is not possible to identify activities within the sections concerned of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. The Secretary-General states that it is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of \$671,800 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 ([A/C.5/72/16](#), para. 13).

Proposed posts

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that there were currently 10 posts (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 General Service (Principal level) and 2 General Service (Other level)) approved under the programme budget for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. In respect of the proposed new P-5 post, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) would be responsible primarily for expanding the scope of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, including engaging subregional organization actors for the first time on behalf of the Office and contributing to the reinforcement of existing links with regional actors. The Officer would serve as the principal liaison with the subregional organizations and be in contact with the national-level focal points in the relevant constituent countries, while also contributing to the lessons learned exercise. **Taking into consideration these proposed functions of the P-5 post, including liaison with subregional organizations, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed P-5 post.**

7. With respect to the proposed P-4 post, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the Political Affairs Officer (P-4) would be the primary person responsible for the public awareness campaign, while working with a Communications Officer (P-3) to develop new information and communications tools, and to feed information and knowledge into the lessons learned and best practices exercise. **Taking into account the existing capacity on communications functions, and the contribution of the proposed P-5 post to the lessons learned exercise, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the proposed P-4 post is justified at this stage. The Committee therefore recommends a P-4 general temporary assistance position instead, to be reviewed in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020–2021.**

Non-post resources

8. In relation to travel of staff, the Advisory Committee was provided upon enquiry with the breakdown of proposed resources in the amount of \$70,000 below:

(United States dollars)

From	To	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)=(4)*(1)*(2)	(6)	(7)	(8)=(5)+(6)*(3)*(2)+(7)*(2)
		Number of trips	Number of travellers	Duration of trip (in days)	Airfare per person	Total airfare	DSA per day	Terminal fees per person	Total costs
New York	Djibouti	1	1	5	9 999	9 999	187	250	11 184
New York	Libreville	1	1	5	9 903	9 903	352	250	11 913
New York	Lima	1	2	4	2 600	5 200	240	250	7 620
New York	Abuja	1	1	5	10 000	10 000	213	250	11 315
New York	Bogotá	1	2	4	1 900	3 800	150	250	5 500
New York	Manila	1	1	5	9 493	9 493	256	250	11 023
New York	Kinshasa	1	1	5	9 616	9 616	283	250	11 281
Total								69 836	(rounded to 70 000)

Abbreviation: DSA, daily subsistence allowance.

The Advisory Committee is not convinced of the accuracy of the estimates for some of the proposed trips, such as the amounts under airfare from New York to Djibouti, Libreville and Abuja. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$7,000, to the proposed resources for travel of staff.

III. Other issues

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Office worked closely with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on a range of issues, at both the principal and working levels, to coordinate work and share information. The Committee was also informed that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict had met with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, to discuss issues of mutual concern and to explore areas where joint work might be beneficial, including on the issue of trafficking of children and cross-border violations against children. The Committee was further informed that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict reported annually to the Human Rights Council and also met the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on a regular basis on the issues on their agenda. **While recognizing the different mandates and functions of the respective entities, the Advisory Committee encourages the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue its efforts to coordinate its work with relevant entities in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of resources.**

IV. Conclusion

10. Taking into account its recommendations and observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.3/72/L.21/Rev.1](#):

(a) An additional appropriation of \$664,800 would be required, comprising \$517,800 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and \$147,000 under section 29D, Office of Central Support

Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

(b) An amount of \$50,000 would be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

(c) The establishment of one P-5 post, effective 1 January 2018, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, would also be required.
