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Proposed programme budget for 2020

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2020

Plan outline**

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* [A/74/50](#).

** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the plan outline is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the General Assembly.



I. Background

1. In keeping with guidance received from the General Assembly, the long-term objectives of the Organization set out in the present document reflect the legislative mandates of Member States in all areas of the activities of the United Nations. Mandates are referenced in each budget section. They collectively form the basis for the preparation of the proposed programme budget, which translates legislative mandates into long-term priorities and objectives and work programmes.

II. Longer-term objectives of the Organization

2. Consistent with past practice, the long-term objectives revolve around the key transformative agendas established or welcomed by Member States. These include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (resolution 69/313), Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want of the African Union (as recognized in resolution 71/254), Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development (resolution 73/227), the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (resolution 50/42), the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation (resolution 70/174), the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (resolution 73/195), the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the endorsement of the Istanbul Declaration (resolution 65/280), the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (resolution 59/311), the Monterrey Consensus (resolution 56/210 B), the New Urban Agenda (resolution 71/256), Our ocean, our future: call for action (resolution 71/312), the outcome document entitled “Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem” (resolution S-30/1), the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, as referenced in resolution 71/228), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (resolution 69/15), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (resolution 69/283), the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 (resolution 69/137), Action for Peacekeeping (in Security Council resolution 2436 (2018) and President of the Security Council statement S/PRST/2018/10), sustaining peace (Council resolution 2282 (2016) and resolution 70/262), Women and peace and security (resolution 1325 (2000)) and youth and peace and security (resolution 2419 (2018)).

Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

3. Achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character is among the purposes set out in the Charter of the United Nations. From its inception, the Organization has been tasked with promoting “higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development” (Article 55 of the Charter) to help to bring about the stability and well-being necessary for peace. Today, the 2030 Agenda represents the guiding agenda for Member States in their pursuit of these goals. While Member States are progressing towards many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (E/2018/64), their scale, ambition and indivisibility will require determined, balanced and integrated efforts that are also mindful of the impact,

opportunities and challenges arising from rapid technological change (General Assembly resolutions [70/1](#) and [73/17](#)).

4. In this context, the Organization will continue to focus on repositioning the United Nations development system to better support Member States (General Assembly resolution [72/279](#)). Building on insights from the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (resolution [71/243](#)), the reinvigorated development system is expected to deliver revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national priorities; enhanced leadership for coherent and effective United Nations country team support; more actionable analysis of sustainable development trends; enhanced policy advice to host Governments; stepped-up support to unlock and leverage strategic finance and partnerships; more efficient United Nations country team operations, including through common premises and services, better reporting, transparency and accountability for system-wide results; and enhanced dialogue with Member States on the Organization's support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. By leveraging these and other internal reforms, the Organization will provide enhanced policy and implementation support to Member States in the follow-up to major transformative agendas that have set ambitious goals in all dimensions of sustainable development. Beginning with the 2030 Agenda, these also include the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 21 and the New Urban Agenda. In addition, the Organization will sustain its assistance to countries with the highest needs, in accordance with the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

6. Recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is one of the greatest global sustainable development challenges, the system-wide plan of action under the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) (General Assembly resolution [73/246](#)) will bolster the Organization's efforts to assist Member States in “leaving no one behind”. In this context, the Organization will support Member States in addressing questions of multidimensional poverty and inequality, economic governance and planning, and fiscal and macroeconomic sustainability. In ensuring that no country or person is left behind, the Organization will also support Member States in giving due consideration to the issue of agriculture development, food security and nutrition (resolutions [72/239](#) and [73/253](#)). As nations strive to ensure the inclusion and participation of all in sustainable development efforts, including those who are furthest behind, the Organization will continue to assist Member States in addressing the challenges and opportunities arising from international trade, finance, technology and investment to ensure that their benefits are widely shared (resolution [73/219](#)).

7. In line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention, the Organization will support Member States in addressing the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation to accelerate the reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions, address adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change and close the gap between aggregate mitigation pledges and aggregate emission pathways (General Assembly resolution [73/232](#)).

8. In contributing to the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, the Organization will continue to assist Member States in advancing the global environmental agenda, strengthen coherence within the United Nations

system and serve as an advocate for the global environment (General Assembly resolution [73/260](#)). In this context, the Organization will also support Member States in adopting inclusive green economy policies, fostering sustainable management practices in the private sector and increasing consumers' environmental awareness.

9. Given that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are intrinsic to sustainable development and peace, the Organization will support Member States in promoting women's leadership, economic empowerment and participation in decision-making at all levels, including through accelerating gender mainstreaming (General Assembly resolution [72/147](#)). In this context, the Organization will also undertake stronger and more systematic efforts to assist Member States in addressing all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in both conflict and non-conflict situations, in particular through improving strategies for prevention (resolution [69/147](#)).

10. The Organization will continue to support Member States in the ongoing consideration of the impact of demographic trends in the context of sustainable development, including changes in population growth or decline, age structures, urbanization and international migration. In this context, the Organization will also continue to work closely with Member States and other relevant stakeholders in promoting international cooperation around such issues, on the basis of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

11. In support of the effective implementation and review of and follow-up to the New Urban Agenda, the Organization will assist Member States in addressing the ways in which cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed.

12. Capitalizing on the repositioning of the United Nations development system, the Organization will help to strengthen regional and subregional efforts to promote sustainable development, strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer learning and resource mobilization. Multi-stakeholder platforms, regional road maps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, rapid response facilities to assist Member States and innovative policy tools to strengthen planning and economic governance will play a critical role in this context (General Assembly resolution [72/279](#)).

Maintenance of international peace and security

13. The prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes are among the purposes of the United Nations. The Organization arose from the ashes of conflict to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" (Preamble to the United Nations Charter). Its Member States have been "determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter" (General Assembly resolution [60/1](#)). Today, these goals remain as relevant as ever. More countries have recently experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly three decades. Forced displacement has reached unparalleled levels. In many places, the cohesion of societies and the well-being of people are at risk ([A/72/707-S/2018/43](#)). Member States recognize that a range of threats require urgent, collective and determined responses (resolution [60/1](#)).

14. In the pursuit by Member States of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a key focus of the United Nations will be to better serve nations in sustaining peace (General Assembly resolution [70/262](#) and Security Council resolution [2282 \(2016\)](#)). As national Governments and authorities exercise their primary responsibility in this regard, the United Nations will support and complement their efforts to prevent the

outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities and ensuring national reconciliation. In this context, the Organization will also work with Member States to strengthen the peacebuilding architecture and its partnerships with the World Bank and other international financial institutions in crisis-affected situations, in line with resolutions [70/262](#) and [2282 \(2016\)](#) and subsequent requests (resolution [72/276](#)).

15. In the peace and security pillar, the primacy of politics will be the hallmark of the United Nations approach to conflict resolution, including through mediation, good offices, the monitoring of ceasefires and assistance in the implementation of peace accords (President of the Security Council statement [S/PRST/2018/10](#)). In pursuing political solutions to conflict, it will remain an area of focus for the Organization to improve its peacekeeping capabilities and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations (General Assembly resolution [72/304](#)). Recognizing that peacekeeping benefits from collective engagement, the Organization will work with all partners and stakeholders, including through commitments set out in the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, to adapt peacekeeping operations to today's complex and high-risk environments ([S/PRST/2018/10](#)), in particular through strengthening safety and security, performance (Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#)), system-wide coherence in support for justice and the rule of law (resolution [2447 \(2018\)](#)), regional and subregional partnerships (resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#)) and proper conduct with zero tolerance for all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse (resolutions [72/312](#) and [2272 \(2016\)](#)).

16. In all its efforts to support the maintenance of international peace and security, the United Nations will continue to promote the participation, protection and rights of women throughout the cycle of conflict (Security Council resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#)), the similarly important role of young people (resolution [2419 \(2018\)](#)), the protection of children in armed conflict (resolution [2427 \(2018\)](#)) and action against conflict-related sexual violence (resolution [1820 \(2008\)](#)).

17. In contributing to the achievement of Member State objectives, the Organization will sustain its focus on the goals of the reform and restructuring of the peace and security pillar, including focusing on preventing and sustaining peace, enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, achieving a "whole-of-pillar" approach and aligning the peace and security pillar more closely with the Organization's development and human rights work (General Assembly resolution [72/199](#)).

Development of Africa

18. The development of Africa will continue to be a priority for the United Nations. In the coming years, the reforms undertaken by the Organization and the African Union are expected to enhance the institutional partnership in support of African priorities (General Assembly resolutions [63/1](#), [66/293](#) and [71/254](#)). The Organization will advance the implementation of the joint African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution [72/311](#)) and the joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security (Security Council resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#)). In this context, the Organization will also advance the implementation of the joint declaration of December 2018 of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General on cooperation on peace support operations, in support of relevant Security Council resolutions.

19. In line with General Assembly resolution [72/310](#), the United Nations will continue to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which was transformed into the African Union Development Agency. In this context, the

Organization will also assist in the efforts of the African Union with regard to “Silence the Guns by 2020” (Security Council resolution 2457 (2019)) to strengthen the participation and leadership of women and young people, to advance the African Continental Free Trade Area and to support the implementation by Member States of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the work programme of the Paris Agreement (General Assembly resolution 73/232). Joint efforts will ensure complementarity in the implementation by Member States of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees (resolution 73/151), together with the Migration Policy Framework for Africa.

Promotion of human rights

20. Promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion is a purpose of the United Nations set out in its Charter and anchored to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217-III). The responsibility of all Member States to respect, protect and promote human rights is reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda. The Organization will continue to support Member States and treaty bodies in advancing these objectives, including promoting the right to development, advancing knowledge, awareness and understanding of human rights, combating discrimination and inequalities, and strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions (resolutions 41/128, 48/141, 66/3, 67/1, 70/1 and 73/157).

21. In support of Member States, the Organization will continue to help to rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the United Nations human rights machinery, with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness (General Assembly resolution 48/141). In this context, the Organization will also support Member States in building the capacity to implement their treaty obligations and will provide, in this regard, advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building (resolution 68/268).

22. The Organization will also continue to facilitate and support the Human Rights Council in its deliberations (General Assembly 65/281), including during the undertaking of universal periodic reviews (resolution 60/251). In this context, the Organization will, on the basis of consultations, continue to inform the Council on a regular basis of the practical applications of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights (Council resolution 33/6).

Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts

23. Over the past years, an unprecedented number of people have been affected by humanitarian emergencies. In 2018, the number of people targeted through United Nations-led humanitarian response plans reached 101 million, owing in large part to protracted displacement, and some 100 million were directly affected by natural disasters (A/73/343). Member States have recognized that complex trends, including the impact of climate change, financial and economic crises, food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, unplanned urbanization, epidemics, natural hazards, environmental degradation, armed conflicts and acts of terrorism, are increasing the vulnerability of people, while reducing their ability to cope with crises (General Assembly resolutions 70/165 and 73/139).

24. The United Nations, while continuing to strengthen the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance, will promote coherence among humanitarian, development and other actors to ensure complementary responses that meet urgent needs and tackle the root causes of vulnerability (General Assembly resolution 73/139), with the aim of “leaving no one behind” in the implementation by Member

States of the 2030 Agenda. This includes assistance to refugees and returnees (resolutions [73/94](#), [73/150](#) and [73/151](#)).

25. The Secretary-General's reform agenda, including the repositioning of the United Nations development system, welcomed by the General Assembly (resolution [72/279](#)), offers opportunities for strengthening efficient, effective and accountable collaboration. In this context, the Organization will also reinforce its efforts to promote disaster risk reduction strategies and support Member States in building resilience, including through capacity-building in environmental management, in line with the Sendai Framework and national priorities. The Organization will also assist Member States in identifying appropriate innovative approaches so that potential shocks can be mitigated before they become emergencies.

26. Given the unprecedented number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies (General Assembly resolution [73/139](#)) and a growing range of national, regional and other actors assisting populations in need, the humanitarian coordination mandate of the United Nations (resolution [46/182](#)) will be increasingly relevant, as will its support for efficient, fast and flexible financing. Furthermore, these trends underscore the growing importance of the Organization's efforts to support regional and national capacities (resolution [73/139](#)).

27. Challenges for humanitarian action will continue to include impediments to access, as well as the safety and security of personnel, in high-risk operating environments (General Assembly resolution [73/137](#)). The Organization will therefore strengthen its efforts in support of normative frameworks and the promotion of respect for international humanitarian law, while continuing to deliver principled humanitarian support.

Promotion of justice and international law

28. The Organization will continue to act in conformity with the principles of justice and international law and assist in the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, including through judicial settlement. It will also continue to support Member States in the progressive development of international law and its codification.

29. The Organization will continue to support Member States in maintaining, administering and strengthening international legal frameworks in such areas as international peace and security, international trade, human rights law, international humanitarian law, counter-terrorism and international criminal justice. In this context, the Organization will also assist Member States in strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework, including by improving the effective dissemination of and access to treaties (General Assembly resolution [73/210](#)) through the use of electronic resources.

30. The Organization will also continue to provide support to intergovernmental processes on oceans and the law of the sea, sustainable fisheries (General Assembly resolutions [71/312](#), [73/124](#) and [73/125](#)), such as the intergovernmental conference on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (resolution [72/249](#)).

31. The Organization will continue to cooperate with international courts and tribunals and accountability mechanisms, in line with General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Disarmament

32. The Organization will continue its longstanding support for multilateral efforts dedicated to disarmament and non-proliferation (General Assembly resolution

S-10/2), including for weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear weapons, in particular, continue to be a source of primary concern, given their destructive power and existential threat to humanity. The United Nations will also continue to work with all stakeholders on addressing the use of chemical weapons (resolutions 67/8 and 68/45), the humanitarian impact of certain conventional weapons (resolution 73/84) and the need to address emerging scientific and technological developments (resolution 73/32), which have attracted growing attention in the context of international security and disarmament.

33. The United Nations will also continue to promote the universalization and implementation of multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments and support regional approaches to disarmament and non-proliferation through dialogue and confidence-building (General Assembly resolutions 73/33, 73/35, 73/51 and 73/53). Through these tasks, the initiative of the Secretary-General, *Securing Our Common Future: an Agenda for Disarmament*, will facilitate the internal integration of disarmament issues into the Organization's work, especially in the area of prevention, thereby laying the groundwork for new partnerships and greater collaboration and effectiveness.

Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

34. Acts of terrorism constitute one of the most serious threats to peace and security (Security Council resolution 2368 (2017)). Alongside the trade in illicit drugs, trafficking in persons, corruption and transnational organized crime (resolutions 2195 (2014) and 2388 (2017)), such threats continue to take countless lives and undermine the rule of law, sustainable development and peacebuilding efforts (resolution 2282 (2016)). In the coming years, the United Nations will continue to support greater international cooperation and information-sharing to address these issues (resolution 2341 (2017) and General Assembly resolutions 71/19, 72/284 and 73/191).

35. In support of the implementation by Member States of the 2030 Agenda, the Organization will continue to provide coordinated and evidence-based assistance to Member States in addressing the world drug problem (General Assembly resolution 70/181). The Organization will sustain its support for preventing and countering transnational organized crime, including corruption, cybercrime and trafficking in drugs, wildlife, forest products and cultural property (resolution 73/186). This will also entail assistance in curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons (resolution 73/52). The Organization will also continue to assist Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 73/189), with a focus on women and girls (resolution 73/146), including in situations of armed conflict (Security Council resolutions 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017)). In addition, the Organization will promote international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets recovery (resolution 73/222).

36. In support of the promotion of justice and the rule of law, the Organization will continue to assist police, justice and corrections institutions in the context of maintaining international peace and security (Security Council resolution 2447 (2018)) and in support of sustainable development (General Assembly resolution 72/119).

37. The Organization will continue to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 72/284) and relevant Security Council resolutions. These efforts will also include assistance in facilitating information-sharing, building partnerships, preventing violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism, addressing the foreign terrorist

fighter phenomenon, supporting victims and addressing the use of technologies for terrorist purposes (resolution 72/284 and Security Council resolutions 1624 (2005), 2309 (2016), 2354 (2017) and 2396 (2017)). In this context, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact will serve to enhance internal coordination, coherence and accountability within the United Nations system.

Effective functioning of the Organization

38. With the support of Member States, the Secretary-General will continue his efforts to enhance the management of the Organization and the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its mandates. These reforms include the implementation of a new management architecture for improved effectiveness and strengthened accountability; a clear, simple and transparent system for delegating authority to ensure that responsibilities and accountabilities are aligned; and additional measures to strengthen operational effectiveness and internal controls (General Assembly resolution 72/266 B).

39. In this context, the Organization will work to ensure that its human resource management policies are calibrated and more responsive to the operational needs of all Secretariat entities, including in the field (General Assembly resolution 73/281). Recognizing that United Nations staff are an invaluable asset (resolution 72/254), the Organization will also focus on the goals of achieving a 50/50 gender balance and of strengthening geographical distribution (resolution 73/273), including at senior levels.

40. In strengthening the United Nations procurement system, the Organization will remain focused on, as its four general principles, best value for money; fairness, integrity, and transparency; effective international competition; and the interest of the United Nations (Financial Regulation and Rules of the United Nations, regulation 5.12).

41. The Organization will continue to pursue multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally and of improving the efficiency, performance and transparency of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 71/328).

42. Throughout its conferencing support functions, the Organization will further optimize the utilization of conference service resources, enhance their integrated global management, better leverage technology and improve the measurement of conference services quality (General Assembly resolution 73/270).

III. Priorities

43. It is recalled that, for the periods 1998–2001, 2002–2005, 2006–2007, 2008–2009, 2010–2011, 2012–2013, 2014–2015, 2016–2017 and 2018–2019, the General Assembly identified eight priority areas that covered the bulk of the substantive activities of the Organization. Given that the conditions that led to those priorities persist, the Assembly may wish to consider reaffirming or amending, as appropriate, the following priorities:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

- (d) Promotion of human rights;
 - (e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;
 - (f) Promotion of justice and international law;
 - (g) Disarmament;
 - (h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
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