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Proposed programme budget for 2021

General and complete disarmament: the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.44](#)

Twenty-ninth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2021

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/75/12](#)), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.44](#) on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee interacted remotely with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 2 December 2020.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.44](#), the General Assembly would, inter alia:

(a) Decide, pursuant to its decision 74/552, to convene a one-week biennial meeting of States from 26 to 30 July 2021 to consider key challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons at the national, regional and global levels for the purposes of preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients;



(b) Renew its decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2018 to 2024 agreed upon at the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (the third Review Conference), to convene a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2022 and the fourth Review Conference in 2024, to be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting in early 2024 of not more than five days.

3. The statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/75/12) provides further information on: (a) the relationship of the proposed requests to the proposed programme budget for 2021 (*ibid.*, para. 3); (b) the activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented (*ibid.*, paras. 4–6); (c) the financial implications of the proposals (*ibid.*, paras. 7–10); and (d) the potential for absorption during 2021 (*ibid.*, paras. 11–12).

4. With regard to the financial implications of the draft resolution beyond 2021, the Secretary-General indicates that, in the absence of modalities for the biennial meeting in 2022 and the fourth Review Conference and its preceding preparatory committee meeting in 2024, it is not currently possible to estimate the resource requirements for support services, including meetings and documentation. The Secretary-General also indicates that once a decision has been reached on the modalities, he will submit any related budgetary implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (*ibid.*, para. 12). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as the dates, format and scope of the above-mentioned meetings and conference have yet to be determined, the Secretary-General is not in a position to determine the related budget implications. Furthermore, submission of a statement of programme budget implications of a draft resolution for consideration in the context of rule 153, without knowing the financial implications of the draft resolution for the period 2022–2024, is consistent with established practice in such situations.

5. The Advisory Committee notes the absence in the statement of programme budget implications of information on the requirements for the period 2022–2024 and trusts that such information will be submitted as soon as possible.

II. Resource requirements

6. For 2021, the implementation of the proposed requests would entail additional resource requirements amounting to \$203,100 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. These requirements include resources for interpretation (\$84,000), pre-session documentation (\$29,600), in-session documentation (\$40,000) and post-session documentation (\$49,500).

7. The Secretary-General indicates that a provision of \$240,700 for the biennial meeting was approved in the programme budget for 2020. The Secretary-General also indicates that, at the time of writing of the statement, the requirements for 2020 were estimated at \$37,600, and that the difference between the approved resources for 2020 and the final expenditure will be surrendered in the context of the financial performance report for 2020.

8. The Secretary-General further indicates that no provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2021 for the implementation of the activities requested in the draft resolution and that, at this stage, it is not possible to identify activities that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2021.

III. Conclusion

9. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.44](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$203,100 for 2021 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for 2021. The amount of \$203,100 would require an additional appropriation for 2021 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.
