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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Proposed programme budget for 2021

# Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/75/L.34

Thirty-third 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 considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/75/L.34 on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar (A/C.5/75/17). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification from the representatives of the Secretary-General, concluding with written responses received on 9 December 2020.

2. The terms of operative paragraph 21 of draft resolution A/C.3/75/L34 are set out in paragraph 2 (a) to (h) of the statement of the Secretary-General. The General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, inter alia, to: (a) continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions relating to Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer assistance to the Government of Myanmar; (b) extend the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar and submit the report of the Special Envoy covering all relevant issues addressed in the resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session; and (c) provide all assistance necessary to enable the Special Envoy to effectively discharge her mandate and to report to Member States every six months, or as warranted by the situation on the ground. The statement of the Secretary-General





provides further information on: (a) the relationship of the proposed requests to the proposed programme budget for 2021 (ibid., para. 4); and (b) the activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented (ibid., paras. 5-10).

## **II.** Financial implications

3. With regard to the financial implications of the proposals, it is indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General that the costs of continuing the provision of the good offices of the Secretary-General, as requested in operative paragraphs 21 (a) and (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/75/L.34, amount to \$1,152,600, net of staff assessment. The resources would cover the salaries of the Special Envoy (Under-Secretary-General), one Head of Office (D-1), two Political Affairs Officers (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) and one Assistant (Local level), as well as other operational requirements. Other substantive support would be provided to the Special Envoy by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and other administrative support by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It is also indicated in the statement that the estimated requirements have been included in the proposed programme budget for 2021 under Section 3, Political affairs, for special political missions (A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2).

4. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of expenditures incurred of \$848,626 as at 30 November 2020 against the approved funding of \$1,073,000 for the Office of the Special Envoy. During the same period, the Committee notes that the expenditures under official travel amounted to \$14,737 against the apportionment of \$186,900. The Committee was informed that all trips had been cancelled owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) since March 2020. The Advisory Committee trusts that such details on expenditures will be provided as a matter of routine in the future reports on the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, as well as for other statements of the Secretary-General on programme budget implications of draft resolutions and decisions, as appropriate.

## **III.** Other matters

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that the resource requirements for Special Envoy, whose mandate emanates from the General Assembly, are included in the overall resource requirements for all special political missions and are brought to the attention of the Assembly in a statement on programme budget implications, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly. In order to facilitate consideration of the above two documents, the Advisory Committee trusts that, in the future, the Secretary-General will provide clear crossreferences in his reports on special political missions, indicating that the requirements for the Special Envoy on Myanmar would also be presented subsequently in a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, subject to action taken in the Third Committee of the Assembly.

## **IV.** Conclusion

6. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/75/L.34, resource requirements amounting to \$1,152,600, net of staff assessment, would be required for 2021 for the continuation of the Office of the

Special Envoy on Myanmar, subject to any decision that the Assembly may make on the recommendations made by the Committee in its report on special political missions (see para. 7 below).

7. The Advisory Committee has considered the proposal of the Secretary-General for the continuation of the Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar and made observations and recommendations in the context of its report on the proposed programme budget for the year 2021 under section 3, Political affairs, for special political missions (A/75/7/Add.3, paras. 18–21), which has been submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly.

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