



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 August 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Items 9 and 138 of the provisional agenda*

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Proposed programme budget for 2022

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides information on the budgetary impact arising from resolutions and decisions adopted in 2021 by the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session, which was held from 23 July 2020 to 22 July 2021.

The present report provides information relating to Economic and Social Council resolutions [2021/18](#), entitled “Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti”, and [2021/31](#), entitled “Follow-up to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The budgetary impact for 2022 relating to resolution [2021/18](#), amounting to \$47,900, would be accommodated within the overall resources that would be made available for section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022. The budgetary impact for 2022 relating to resolution [2021/31](#), amounting to \$500,400 over and above the current level of the proposed programme budget for 2022, would require an additional appropriation in the amount of \$454,300 under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, representing a charge against the contingency fund, and \$46,100 under section 36, Staff assessment, offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

* [A/76/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the budgetary impact arising from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, in 2021, at its 2021 session, which was held from 23 July 2020 to 22 July 2021.¹
2. The Council adopted two resolutions in which it mandated relevant Secretariat entities to undertake additional activities that have budgetary implications; no provisions for the additional activities had been made in the proposed programme budget for 2022.²
3. Should the Council adopt any resolutions or decisions in 2021 after the issuance of the present report that give rise to programme budget implications for 2022, the corresponding revised estimates will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

II. Budgetary impact arising from resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council

Resolution 2021/18: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

4. Under the terms of paragraphs 2 and 3 of its resolution 2021/18, the Council:

(a) Decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2022 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

(b) Requested the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council for its consideration at its 2022 session.

5. It is estimated that the support to be provided to the Advisory Group would amount to \$47,900 (see table 1), for which no provision had been made in the proposed programme budget for 2022, and would consist of the following: (a) the expenses of 14 members of the Advisory Group and up to 2 staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with international financial institutions and the Organization of American States in 2022 and to undertake a mission to Haiti in the same year (\$43,400); and (b) meeting support services and other expenses in Haiti (\$4,500).

¹ Economic and Social Council decision 2021/209, adopted during the portion of the Council's 2021 session held in 2020, was addressed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/75/608) considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session (see resolution 75/253 A).

² The proposed programme budget for 2022 is contained in document A/76/6 (Introduction) and separate budget section documents (Sects. 1–36 and Income sects. 1–3) and related corrigenda.

Table 1
Resource requirements under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements, 2022</i>
Travel of representatives	39 700
Travel of staff	3 700
Contractual services	4 500
Total	47 900

6. In the context of the consideration of previous Council resolutions extending the mandate of the Advisory Group, the most recent one being resolution [2020/11](#), the related requirements were accommodated within section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for 2021. It is likewise proposed that the resource requirements in the amount of \$47,900 arising from the adoption of resolution [2021/18](#) be accommodated within the overall resources that would be made available for section 9 of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

Resolution [2021/31](#): Follow-up to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

7. Under the terms of paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution [2021/31](#), the Council:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources and in line with regular budgetary procedures, adequate, stable and predictable resources to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to perform its functions as secretariat of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), pursuant to article 17 of the Agreement, ensuring mandate implementation;

(b) Invited ECLAC to continue to seek voluntary contributions to cover any necessary, immediate costs arising from the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement in 2021, and encouraged all Member States in a position do so to contribute in that regard.

8. Under article 17 of the Escazú Agreement, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is designated as Secretary, and the Commission is mandated to carry out the secretariat functions, which are as follows: (a) convening and organizing the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement and its subsidiary bodies and providing the necessary services; (b) providing capacity-building assistance to the parties, upon their request; (c) determining the administrative and contractual arrangements needed to carry out its functions effectively; and (d) performing any other secretariat functions specified in the Agreement and any other functions determined by the Conference of the Parties. ECLAC also operates the clearing house established under article 12 of the Agreement, which is currently housed in the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. To execute the secretariat functions requested in resolution [2021/31](#), additional deliverables would be required under programme 18, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements.

10. In the absence of any certainty with regard to the availability of voluntary resources at the present stage, additional adequate, stable and predictable regular budget resources would be required in 2022 to ensure that the additional deliverables can be carried out and completed and thus ensure mandate implementation, as requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 2021/31. Furthermore, as invited in paragraph 4 of the resolution, ECLAC will continue to seek voluntary resources to cover the costs arising from the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement in 2021.

11. Accordingly, for 2022, additional regular budget resources would be required under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as follows:

(a) General temporary assistance positions (other staff costs), under subprogramme 7:

(i) One position of Legal Officer (P-4), for 12 months, to carry out the following duties: serving as lead officer in the planning, organizing and servicing of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies; providing legal and governance advice and support on matters pertaining to the interpretation, implementation and further development of the Escazú Agreement and its rules and regulations, as appropriate; providing guidance for and oversight of document preparation and management for the Conference of the Parties; overseeing the governance and coordination arrangements between the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance and the Conference of the Parties; liaising with relevant intergovernmental entities and stakeholders on matters pertaining to the Agreement; supporting the ratification and accession of States to the Agreement and providing outreach and assistance to non-parties in their national processes, including coordination with the Depositary; providing assistance to the parties, upon their request, on legislative aspects pertaining to the Agreement and on capacity-building, including through the organization of activities set out in articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Agreement; conducting training workshops and seminars; making presentations on assigned topics and/or activities; overseeing the preparation of publications, press releases, public relations bulletins and other media outputs; preparing reports, speeches and other inputs for presentations by senior staff; and performing any other secretariat functions specified in the Agreement and any other functions as determined by the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC as Secretary of the Agreement, as required;

(ii) One position of Associate Environmental Affairs Officer (P-2), for 12 months, under the supervision of the Legal Officer, to carry out the following duties: supporting the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance established in article 18 of the Escazú Agreement and other bodies established by the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, including drafting documents, thematic background documents, reports of meetings and other material; providing substantive support on environmental matters, as required, with regard to other work areas and providing support to the secretariat in general; organizing the development and maintenance of tools for information and communication in relation to the Agreement, including the website, the clearing house and the Regional Public Mechanism; supporting the secretariat's work in relation to promotion and awareness-raising with regard to the Agreement through participation in relevant international events and in processes on issues relevant to the Agreement; maintaining contact with members of the Committee and other stakeholders, including drafting correspondence and providing information as required; and performing other duties as assigned;

(iii) One position of Administrative Assistant (Local level), for 12 months, to perform the full range of office management and administrative support functions, including the following duties: providing direct assistance to the secretariat; providing assistance in the organization and implementation of secretariat activities; responding or drafting responses to a wide range of correspondence and other communications of the secretariat; performing administrative arrangements relating to official travel of staff, meeting participants and experts; maintaining files of rules, regulations, administrative instructions and other documents relating to the Conference of the Parties and the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance; monitoring the status of expenditures and allotments through Umoja; performing a variety of administrative duties (e.g. meeting organization, conference services, human resources management, contract management and procurement), including preparing and/or processing administrative requests through Umoja; and assisting with other day-to-day administrative procedures and performing other duties as assigned;

(b) Other non-post resources, under:

(i) Policymaking organs (\$65,000), for the organization of the Conference of the Parties, including:

a. Other staff costs: an amount of \$30,000 would provide for general temporary assistance in support of the annual meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including the preparation of substantive support documents and relevant reports and other pre-session and in-session activities;

b. Travel of staff: an amount of \$10,000 would provide for travel of staff to undertake official missions in connection with servicing the Conference, including other necessary official missions relating to pre-session and post-session activities;

c. Contractual services: an amount of \$20,000 would provide for contractual interpretation services (including International Sign interpretation, closed captioning and screen readers for the hearing and visually impaired) during the Conference and related pre-session and side events; and translation and editing services for pre-session documents and other documentation to be submitted during the session;

d. General operating expenses: an amount of \$2,000 would provide for communication costs for postage, courier services, diplomatic pouch services, the temporary connection of meeting facilities to the Internet, and miscellaneous other services related to the Conference;

e. Supplies and materials: an amount of \$3,000 would provide for expendable supplies necessary for the Conference of the Parties, including information notes to participants, identity badges and luggage tags, meeting room notepads, reproduction paper and consumable supplies, audio/video disks, small storage devices (pen drives) and information kits;

(ii) Subprogramme 7 (\$35,000), to provide support to the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, including:

a. Experts: an amount of \$30,000 would provide for the participation of experts in the Conference of the Parties, pre-session and side events; and meetings of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance;

b. Contractual services: an amount of \$5,000 would provide for editing, translation, and desktop publishing services of electronic documentation in

support of the functioning of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance.

12. The above additional resources, including related amounts under section 36, Staff assessment, are estimated at \$500,400 for 2022, for which no provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for 2022.³ Accordingly, in order to implement resolution 2021/31, additional appropriations would be required over and above the current level of the proposed programme budget for 2022 for section 21 (\$454,300) and section 36 (\$46,100) thereof (see table 2).

Table 2

Resource requirements under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements, 2022</i>
Section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	
Policymaking organs	
Other staff costs	30 000
Travel of staff	10 000
Contractual services	20 000
General operating expenses	2 000
Supplies and materials	3 000
Subprogramme 7, Sustainable development and human settlements	
Other staff costs (general temporary assistance positions)	
1 Legal Officer (P-4)	166 000
1 Associate Environmental Affairs Officer (P-2)	114 300
1 Administrative Assistant (Local level)	74 000
Experts	30 000
Contractual services	5 000
Subtotal, section 21	454 300
Section 36, Staff assessment	
Other staff costs	46 100
Subtotal, section 36	46 100
Total	500 400

13. With regard to the provisions of paragraph 3 of resolution 2021/31, the attention of the Council was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 75/252, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and also reaffirmed the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring the full, effective and efficient

³ A/76/6 (Sect. 21) and A/76/6 (Sect. 36).

implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in that regard (resolutions [45/248 B](#), sect. VI, para. 1, and [75/252](#), para. 1).

III. Overall requirements

14. The budgetary impact of the resolutions adopted in 2021 by the Council during its 2021 session amounts to \$548,300 and relates to the proposed programme budget for 2022 (see table 3).

Table 3

Overall resource requirements of resolutions adopted by the Council, in 2021, at its 2021 session

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements, 2022</i>
Section 9, Economic and social affairs	
Travel of representatives	39 700
Travel of staff	3 700
Contractual services	4 500
Subtotal, section 9	47 900
Section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	
Other staff costs	384 300
Travel of staff	10 000
Experts	30 000
Contractual services	25 000
General operating expenses	2 000
Supplies and materials	3 000
Subtotal, section 21	454 300
Section 36, Staff assessment	
Other staff costs	46 100
Subtotal, section 36	46 100
Total	548 300

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. The overall resource requirements arising from resolutions adopted in 2021 by the Council at its 2021 session amount to \$548,300. Of those requirements, the amount of \$47,900 arising from the adoption of resolution [2021/18](#) would be accommodated within the overall resources that would be made available under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022. Consequently, with respect to resolution [2021/18](#), no additional appropriation is sought over and above the current level of the proposed programme budget for 2022.

16. **The General Assembly is requested:**

(a) **To approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$454,300 under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the**

Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

(b) To approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$46,100 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.
