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Programme budget for 2021

Proposed programme budget for 2022

Report of the Human Rights Council

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third special session

Thirty-seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2022

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the advance report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third special session ([A/76/524/Add.1](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met online with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 18 February 2022.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is an addendum to his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth regular sessions, and at its thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second special sessions ([A/76/524](#)). The Advisory Committee recalls its observations and recommendations contained in its related report ([A/76/7/Add.30](#)) and draws attention to its findings therein, which were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/246](#).

II. Financial implications arising from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council

3. The report of the Secretary-General reflects resource requirements resulting from the adoption by the Human Rights Council, at its thirty-third special session,



held on 17 December 2021, of resolution [S-33/1](#) on the situation of human rights in Ethiopia. Under the terms of the resolution, the Council decided to establish, for a period of one year, renewable as necessary, an international commission of human rights experts on Ethiopia; requested the international Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia to present an oral briefing to the Council at its fiftieth session and a written report to the Council at its fifty-first session and to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, to be followed by interactive dialogues; requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to continue to provide advice and technical assistance in order to strengthen the capacity of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the criminal justice system, and transitional justice; and requested the immediate operationalization of the mandate, and requested the Secretary-General to provide all the resources and expertise, including on sexual and gender-based violence, necessary to enable OHCHR to implement the provisions of the resolution ([A/76/524/Add.1](#), para. 2).

4. The proposal of the Secretary-General sets out the requirements of \$2,824,900, which would constitute an additional appropriation under the programme budget for 2022, comprising \$34,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and \$2,790,100 under section 24, Human rights. The proposal indicates that, for the work of the international Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, an amount of \$2,467,300 would be required, consisting of \$34,800 under section 2 and \$2,432,500 under section 24 (*ibid.*, table 1), and that for the continued provision of technical assistance, including for the element of transitional justice, a further \$357,600 would be required under section 24 (*ibid.*, table 2). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the additional appropriation of \$2,824,900 would constitute a charge against the contingency fund. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the accounting period for 2021 had not yet closed and that final expenditure information for sections of the programme budget for 2021 would be available with the issuance of the financial statements in April 2022. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide an update to the General Assembly on the usage and level of the contingency fund, as well as final expenditures for 2021, at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Proposed new staffing

5. To support the establishment of the Commission, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a secretariat consisting of 20 staff (1 P-5, 7 P-4, 7 P-3, 4 P-2 and 1 General Service (Other level)), funded through general temporary assistance, for a period ranging from three to nine months, to be based in Entebbe, Uganda (*ibid.*, para. 3). To support the continued provision of technical assistance, including on transitional justice, the Secretary-General proposes to establish a position at the P-4 level with specific expertise in transitional justice, funded through general temporary assistance for nine months and to be based in Addis Ababa (*ibid.*, para. 5). Upon enquiry as to the possibility of receiving support from the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe or the OHCHR regional office in Addis Ababa, the Advisory Committee was informed that, given the political environment in which the Commission would have to operate and its independent mandate, neither the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe nor the OHCHR regional office in Addis Ababa would support the work of the Commission.

6. In paragraph 3 (a) of the report of the Secretary-General, including the table therein, details are provided of the positions proposed for establishment in support of the Commission, including those of Legal Adviser (P-4) for nine months, Media Adviser (P-4) for three months, Programme Management Officer (P-3) for nine

months and Security Officer (P-3) for seven months, two positions of Human Rights Officer (Investigator) (P-3) for seven months and three positions of Interpreter/Translator (P-2) for seven months. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should benefit from services that are available at both the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and the OHCHR regional office in Addis Ababa in order to provide a viable alternative to the dedicated capacity proposed to support the Commission, namely, the Programme Management Officer (P-3) and the Security Officer (P-3). The Committee furthermore reiterates its recommendation (see [A/76/7/Add.30](#), para. 22) that some functions should be undertaken by other staff with the required substantive expertise in lieu of establishing new positions. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the positions of Legal Adviser (P-4), Media Adviser (P-4), Programme Management Officer (P-3) and Security Officer (P-3), one position of Human Rights Officer (Investigator) (P-3) and one position of Interpreter/Translator (P-2).**

Proposed non-personnel requirements

7. The report of the Secretary-General also indicates the related non-personnel requirements, which total \$750,700 for the Commission and \$190,400 for the provision of technical assistance, including on transitional justice ([A/76/524/Add.1](#), paras. 3 (b)-(f) and 5 (b)-(d) and tables 1 and 2). Upon enquiry as to the requirements for travel of staff of \$167,600, the Advisory Committee was again informed (see para. 5 above) that the political environment in which the Commission would have to operate made it unadvisable for staff already based in duty stations to which travel had been budgeted to be seen or perceived as acting on behalf of the Commission.

8. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that some form of support cannot be effectively provided to the Commission by the existing resources of OHCHR, including the regional office, and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, as well as through further efficiencies, including teleconferencing and other virtual working arrangements. Bearing in mind its recommendation in paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$22,900) to the proposed provision under general operating expenses, a reduction of 10 per cent (\$6,500) to the proposed provision under furniture and equipment and a reduction of 15 per cent (\$25,100) to the proposed provision under travel of staff.**

III. Conclusion

9. The actions proposed by the Secretary-General to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 8 of his report ([A/76/524/Add.1](#)). **Subject to its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve an additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund, in the amount of \$2,232,600 under the programme budget for 2022, comprising:**

- (i) **\$34,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management;**
- (ii) **\$2,197,800 under section 24, Human rights;**

(b) **Approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$166,100 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2022, to be offset by an equivalent increase under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**