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Proposed programme budget for 2023

Revised estimates on United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In order to mitigate the adverse effects of high international food and fertilizer prices, due in part to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and exacerbated by the armed conflict in Ukraine, two initiatives were signed on 22 July 2022: the memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world market, and the initiative on the safe transportation of grain and foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports among Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with the United Nations signing as a witness.

By its resolution [77/3](#) of 27 October 2022, the General Assembly approved additional resource requirements in the amount of \$3,524,600 (gross) and \$3,330,300 (net of staff assessment) under the programme budget for 2022 and authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$3,524,600 in connection with the United Nations support for the initial operationalization of the two initiatives.

The present report is submitted to request the approval by the General Assembly of additional resource requirements for 2023, which amount to \$10,939,500 (gross) and \$10,227,500 (net of staff assessment), in connection with the continued implementation of United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact under the two initiatives. The Assembly is also requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for 2023, with corresponding assessment, in an amount not exceeding \$10,939,500, and to take note that the utilization of the commitment authority will be reported in the context of the financial performance report for 2023.



I. Overview

1. The Russian Federation and Ukraine are among the most important producers of agricultural commodities in the world and are leading suppliers of foodstuffs and fertilizers to global markets. A large number of countries, including developing countries and least developed countries, rely on food and fertilizers exported from the Russian Federation and Ukraine to meet their consumption needs.

2. In recognition of the key role that food and fertilizer exports from the Russian Federation and Ukraine play in supporting global food security, and following a prolonged period of rising food and fertilizer prices, which was further exacerbated by the consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine, two initiatives were signed in July 2022 in order to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact: the memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world market (hereinafter referred to as “the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation”) and the initiative on the safe transportation of grain and foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports among Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations signing as a witness (hereinafter referred to as “the Black Sea Grain Initiative”).

3. The memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation is in effect for a period of three years. The terms of the Black Sea Grain Initiative stipulate that it will remain in effect for 120 days from the date of its signature by all parties, i.e., 22 July 2022, and that it can be extended automatically for the same period, unless one of the parties notifies the other of the intent to terminate the initiative or modify it.

4. These initiatives relate to Article 1 (3) of the Charter of the United Nations and are similarly linked to General Assembly resolution [46/182](#), in which the Assembly affirmed the central and unique role of the United Nations in providing leadership and coordinating the efforts of the international community to support countries affected by humanitarian crises and emphasized the leadership role of the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator in ensuring a rapid and coherent response to natural disasters and other emergencies. In addition, the initiatives respond to the call in Assembly resolution [76/124](#) upon Member States, parties to armed conflict, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently increase their measures to prevent famine and to reduce and address acute food insecurity. Furthermore, the initiatives are aligned with Assembly resolution [76/264](#), in which the Assembly called upon the international community to urgently support countries affected by the food security crisis on the basis of unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation, and recognized the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating a comprehensive global response in that regard, under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Also in resolution [76/264](#), the Assembly called upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning.

5. In his report of 2 September 2022 on the revised estimates on United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact ([A/77/325](#)), the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to approve additional resource requirements for 2022 in the amount of \$3,524,600 (gross) and \$3,330,300 (net of staff assessment) in connection with the United Nations support for the operationalization of the two initiatives and to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$3,524,600, with its actual utilization to be reported in the context of the financial performance report for 2022. The Secretary-General also informed the Assembly of his intention to submit a revised estimates report, for consideration by the Assembly during the main part of

its seventy-seventh session, that would include the budgetary requirements for 2023 relating to United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its related report (A/77/486), the Assembly, by its resolution 77/3, approved the Secretary-General's proposal.

6. The present report sets out the additional resource requirements for 2023 in connection with the continued implementation of United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact. The total estimated resource requirements for 2023 would amount to \$10,939,500, including \$2,328,800 to support the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation, \$7,898,700 to support the Black Sea Grain Initiative and \$712,000 to cover staff assessment requirements. The General Assembly is requested to approve the total estimated resource requirements for 2023, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$10,939,500 in support of the two initiatives and to take note that the utilization of the commitment authority will be reported in the context of the financial performance report for 2023.

II. The memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation

A. Introduction

7. On 22 July 2022, the Secretary-General, as part of his efforts to address the recent increase in global food insecurity, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federation to facilitate the unimpeded access to the global markets of Russian food products and fertilizers, which are not subject to sanctions. This initiative, known as the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation, is aimed at bringing stability to global food markets by facilitating global access to agricultural products, including fertilizers and raw materials required to produce fertilizers. It is vital to help to reverse the turmoil in the global fertilizer market that is now threatening next season's crops, including rice, the most widely consumed staple in the world.

8. The Secretariat will oversee and coordinate the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation in its quest to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic and humanitarian character, pursuant to Article 1 of the Charter. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will be the lead entity, acting in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), in which the Assembly set out the principal functions of UNCTAD, including to promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development, particularly trade between countries at different stages of development, to initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the relevant organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, and to be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Governments and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter.

9. The memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation is aimed at the following:

(a) Continuation of commercial supplies of food and fertilizers from the Russian Federation to the countries in need of such products;

(b) Continuation of efforts by the Secretariat of the United Nations to facilitate the transparent unimpeded access of food and fertilizers, including raw materials required to produce fertilizers (including ammonia), originating from the Russian Federation to the world market; under the initiative, the Russian Federation will

inform the Secretariat of any potential or existing impediments to such access that may arise in the sectors of finance, insurance and logistics;

(c) Facilitation by the Russian Federation of the unimpeded export of food, sunflower oil and fertilizers from the Ukrainian ports.

10. To support the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation, UNCTAD will lead the endeavour to engage with relevant authorities and the private sector to effectively exempt food products and fertilizers, including raw materials required to produce fertilizers (including ammonia), originating in the Russian Federation from measures imposed on the Russian Federation, based on the principle that those measures do not apply to food products and fertilizers. This would facilitate the unimpeded export of Russian food products and fertilizers, including raw materials required to produce fertilizers (including ammonia), to the world market, taking into account critical global food security needs and the urgent requirements of the relevant food and fertilizer producers and traders in the Russian Federation.

11. One of the mechanisms for engagement will be bilateral and multilateral sectoral working groups involving relevant authorities such as national regulators (such as treasury departments, authorities dealing with sanctions) and sectoral ministries (ministries of agriculture, ministries of trade and industry, ministries of transport) but also key relevant private sector actors, such as insurance associations and other relevant sectorial industry entities.

12. As provided for in the memorandum of understanding, the initiative will remain in effect for a period of three years from the signature date of 22 July 2022.

B. Relationship between the mandate and the programme budget for 2023

13. The activities undertaken by the United Nations as a participant in the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation relate to programme 10, Trade and development, of the programme plan and to section 12, Trade and development, of the programme budget for 2023 (see [A/77/6 \(Sect. 12\)](#)).

C. Activities required to implement the initiative

14. On behalf of the Secretariat, UNCTAD will undertake in-scope requests from the Russian Federation and provide technical guidance to the Russian Federation and to Russian companies relating to trade facilitation in the context of the memorandum of understanding.

15. UNCTAD has established a task team to support the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation. Its activities include the following:

(a) Establishment of channels for the mutual exchange of information between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations for the purposes of implementing the agreement and informing the Secretariat on any impediments to the access of food and fertilizers originating from the Russian Federation to global markets;

(b) Facilitation of and support for the efforts of bilateral and multilateral sectoral working groups, involving relevant actors from the government and private sectors;

(c) On the basis of in-scope requests received from the Russian Federation, liaison with the private sector, including business associations, industry groups and companies, to address issues arising from non-sanctioned trade related to the memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations.

16. The task team convened three working groups with all stakeholders on the issue of payments, including representatives from the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union and the Russian Federation, in which the stakeholders have agreed to discuss issues related to the unimpeded export of food and fertilizer originating from the Russian Federation.

17. Based on the task team's efforts, commitments have been received for the issuance of licences that will facilitate insurance and payments for food and fertilizer on ships, as well as access to protection and indemnity insurance for the Russian Federation.

18. The task team is currently working on arrangements for a trilateral agreement among the World Food Programme (WFP), Uralchem and recipient countries in Africa for the export of fertilizers that are stored in European ports.

19. The task team is considering two additional requests for access to maritime registries and trade arbitration facilities.

D. Budgetary implications

20. The estimated additional resource requirements to support the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation for 2023 amount to \$2,328,800 (net of staff assessment) under section 12 of the proposed programme budget for 2023 and are summarized in table 1.

Table 1

Additional resource requirements for 2023 by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Commitment authority (22 July–31 December 2022)</i>	<i>Total additional resource requirements 2023</i>
Other staff costs	206.6	936.8
Consultants	312.0	702.0
Travel of staff	260.0	480.0
General operating expenses	70.0	210.0
Total	848.6	2 328.8

Table 2

Additional requirements for general temporary assistance positions for 2023 by category and grade

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Level</i>
Authorized for 2022	3	1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 GS (OL)
Additional	2	1 D-2 and 1 P-4
Proposed for 2023	5	1 D-2, 1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 GS (OL)

Abbreviation: GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

21. The total estimated additional requirements to support the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation include an amount of \$936,800 that would provide for salaries and common staff costs for five general temporary assistance positions (1 D-2, 1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)) that would comprise the UNCTAD task team (see table 2). The cost estimate includes the application of a

continuing vacancy rate for three positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)) authorized for 2022 and an additional D-2 position that had been provided in 2022 as a non-reimbursable loan by WFP. A 50 per cent vacancy rate has been applied to the additional P-4 position. All general temporary assistance positions will be based in Geneva. Further details on the organizational structure of the team and the functions related to the five positions are reflected in annex I, section A, and annex II to the present report.

22. The proposal includes an amount of \$1,392,000 under other non-post objects of expenditures as reflected below:

(a) Consultants: the estimated amount of \$702,000 would provide for the services of consultants required to provide subject matter expertise on various questions that may be raised by the stakeholders, as explained in paragraph 15;

(b) Official travel: the estimated amount of \$480,000 would provide for daily subsistence allowances and travel costs;

(c) General operating expenses: the estimated amount of \$210,000 would provide for local transportation, communications and pouch services.

III. The Black Sea Grain Initiative

A. Introduction

23. On 22 July 2022, the Black Sea Grain Initiative was signed by Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Secretary-General of the United Nations signed the Initiative as a witness. The three parties to the Initiative recognized the role of the Secretary-General in securing the discussions for the Initiative and requested his further assistance in its implementation in the furtherance of the humanitarian mission of the United Nations and subject to its authorities and mandates.

24. As set out in paragraph 4 above, the Initiative is closely linked to the purposes described in the Charter and the leadership roles of the Secretary-General and of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in ensuring a rapid and coherent response to natural disasters and other emergencies as set out in General Assembly resolution [46/182](#). It also responds to more recent calls from the Assembly to urgently increase measures to prevent famine and reduce and address acute food insecurity. It has been taken forward in recognition of the connection between global food security and the predictable supply of grain, other foodstuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia, exported through Ukrainian ports. It is based on agreements concluded by the parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, chapter XI-2, regulation 11, and on the International Code for the Security of Ships and of Port Facilities, part B, paragraph 4.26.

25. The purpose of the Initiative is to establish a maritime humanitarian corridor to facilitate the safe navigation for the export of grain and related foodstuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia, from the Ukrainian ports of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Yuzhne. The terms of the Initiative stipulate that it will remain in effect for 120 days from 22 July 2022 and can be extended automatically for the same period, unless one of the parties notifies the others of its intent to terminate or modify it.

26. The Black Sea Grain Initiative provides for the establishment of a joint coordination centre set up in Istanbul, Türkiye, under the auspices of the United Nations that includes representatives of the three parties and the United Nations. The Joint Coordination Centre exercises general oversight and coordination of the Initiative. Its key tasks include: (a) the establishment of a maritime humanitarian

corridor linking the three designated Ukrainian ports to global markets; (b) the development of standard operating procedures applicable to the use of the maritime humanitarian corridor, including in relation to the inspection of incoming and outgoing vessels; and (c) the monitoring of movements of vessels through the maritime humanitarian corridor.

27. Inspections of incoming and outgoing vessels are conducted by inspection teams consisting of representatives of all parties and the United Nations. The purpose of inspections of incoming vessels is to confirm that holds are empty of cargo and that ships are not transporting unauthorized personnel. Inspections of outgoing vessels are to ensure that the only items being transported are those addressed in the Initiative, i.e., grain and related foodstuffs or fertilizers, including ammonia, and that no unauthorized cargo or personnel are being transported. Inspections are carried out while vessels are at anchor in the Sea of Marmara, to the south-west of the entrance to the Bosphorus, near Istanbul. Standard operating procedures that have been developed since the signing of the Initiative provide for a secondary inspection site in the Black Sea, to the north-west of the Bosphorus. Inspection procedures have continued to be refined and adjusted under the oversight of the Joint Coordination Centre.

28. While the Black Sea Grain Initiative has an overarching humanitarian objective, it is also recognized that United Nations support for its implementation requires specialized capacities and expertise to be drawn from across the Organization. Similarly, it is recognized that the operation cannot scale up to address the crisis of global food insecurity without the involvement of the commercial sector in the movement of grain and related foodstuffs or fertilizers through the maritime humanitarian corridor.

29. As at 16 October 2022, close to 8.9 million tons of food commodities had been transported out of the designated Ukrainian ports under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, aboard 390 vessels destined for 39 countries. This figure includes 190,000 tons of wheat transported by WFP to meet humanitarian needs in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. Some 24 per cent of the total cargo transported under the Initiative during this period went to countries defined as low-income or lower-middle-income economies by the World Bank. A total of 775 inspections were carried out during this period, of both inbound and outbound vessels. No unauthorized cargo or crew were identified during these inspections. These and other data are being tracked and published on an ongoing basis through the website for the Initiative (www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative/vessel-movements), where reporting on shipments by income group is updated on a daily basis and can be downloaded. Impacts of the Initiative extend beyond the initial destinations; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reports that the resumption of exports from Ukrainian ports has contributed to a continuing decline in the FAO food price index, which measures the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.

30. The United Nations has continuously had to adapt its concept of operations to the fluid situation on the ground and as requirements have evolved. Support has been adjusted on the basis of further refinements agreed to by the parties and in response to more detailed operating procedures developed through the Joint Coordination Centre, in particular with regard to inspections. It has been necessary to continue to ramp up United Nations inspection capacities in response to the increasing number of vessels entering and leaving the maritime humanitarian corridor as confidence in the Initiative across the shipping industry has grown. The number of joint inspections carried out under the Initiative more than doubled during the first two months of its implementation, increasing from 126 in August to 313 in September. It is anticipated that further adjustments and adaptations will be required as the Initiative continues to be implemented and as operating procedures and the expectations of the parties are further refined and clarified.

B. Relationship between the mandate and the programme budget for 2023

31. The activities of the United Nations participation in the Joint Coordination Centre relate to programme 23, Humanitarian assistance, of the programme plan and to section 27, Humanitarian assistance, of the programme budget for 2023 (see [A/77/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)).

C. Activities required to implement the Initiative

32. The United Nations will continue to undertake the following activities as part of the assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative that the parties have requested from the Secretary-General: (a) participation in the inspection teams checking incoming and outgoing vessels bound for or returning from the three ports on the Black Sea coast, operating on a daily basis, under the auspices of the Joint Coordination Centre; (b) comprehensive secretariat assistance for the work of the Joint Coordination Centre itself, including during daily plenary meetings; (c) high-level dialogue and engagement with the parties and a range of external actors and entities by the United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative; (d) the establishment and maintenance of a maritime watch room operating on a 24-hour basis; and (e) support for various public information activities linked to United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Initiative, carried out in support of and in close coordination with the parties.

D. Budgetary implications

33. The estimated additional resource requirements to support the Black Sea Grain Initiative for 2023 would amount to \$7,898,700 (net of staff assessment) under section 27 of the proposed programme budget for 2023 and is summarized in table 3. Additional requirements for general temporary assistance positions are summarized in table 4.

Table 3
Additional resource requirements for 2023 by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Commitment authority (22 July–31 December 2022)</i>	<i>Total additional resource requirements 2023</i>
Other staff costs	1 056.1	3 995.9
Hospitality	–	3.0
Consultants	–	48.5
Travel of staff	324.2	224.9
Contractual services	62.0	118.8
General operating expenses	51.3	59.4
Supplies and materials	8.1	39.5
Furniture and equipment	30.0	147.7
Grants and contributions	950.0	3 261.0
Total (net requirements)	2 481.7	7 898.7

Table 4
Additional requirements for general temporary assistance positions for 2023 by category and grade

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Level</i>
Authorized for 2022	28	1 ASG, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 4 P-4, 8 P-3, 6 NPO and 4 LL
Additional	4	1 P-4 and 3 NPO
Reduction	(1)	1 P-4
Proposed for 2023	31	1 ASG, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 4 P-4, 8 P-3, 9 NPO and 4 LL

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer.

34. The proposal includes an amount of \$3,995,900 that would provide for salaries and common staff costs for 31 general temporary assistance positions for the United Nations support team to the Joint Coordination Centre (see table 4). The cost estimate includes the application of a continuing vacancy rate for the 27 positions authorized for 2022. A 50 per cent vacancy rate has been applied to the proposed additional four positions (1 P-4 and 3 National Professional Officer). The deployment of the 31 general temporary assistance positions comprises 28 positions in Istanbul (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 D-1, 4 P-5, 3 P-4, 8 P-3, 8 National Professional Officer and 3 Local level), 1 P-4 at United Nations Headquarters, as well as 1 National Professional Officer and 1 Local level in Ankara. Further details on the organizational structure of the United Nations participation in the Joint Coordination Centre and the functions of the 31 positions are reflected in annex I, section B, and annex II to the present report.

35. The proposal includes an amount of \$3,902,800 falling under other non-post objects of expenditures as reflected below:

(a) Hospitality: the estimate of \$3,000 would provide for official functions of the Joint Coordination Centre with high-level officials of the parties to the Initiative;

(b) Consultants: the estimated amount of \$48,500 would provide for consultancy services for specialized guidance on maritime-related issues and on the appropriate handling of hazardous or potentially hazardous cargo, including ammonia;

(c) Official travel: the estimated amount of \$224,900 would provide primarily for fares and daily subsistence allowances for staff and include the travel of the United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative and his staff to New York, Geneva, Moscow, Ankara and Kyiv for meetings and consultations in support of the implementation of the Initiative, including travel for training;

(d) Contractual services: the estimated amount of \$118,800 would provide for translation and interpretation services (\$48,000), specialized software applications related to the monitoring of maritime traffic (\$12,000), vehicle rental (\$12,000), event/conference room rental/services (\$12,000), public information services/photography services (\$19,000), individual contractors (\$10,800) and training fees for staff (\$5,000);

(e) General operating expenses: the estimated amount of \$59,400 would provide for communications services (\$27,600), information technology support services (\$6,800), ad hoc repairs to office equipment (\$5,000), pouch services for shipment of equipment (\$3,000), fuel and vehicle maintenance, including insurance (\$12,000), and rental of office equipment, including copiers (\$5,000);

(f) Supplies and materials: the estimated amount of \$39,500 would provide for office supplies and materials (\$9,000), maps/flags (\$3,000), basic outreach and

visibility supplies for the Joint Coordination Centre (\$8,000), occupational safety and health supplies, including face masks and COVID-19 tests (\$6,500), and operational equipment supplies, including information technology consumables, vehicle spare parts and supplies (\$13,000);

(g) Furniture and equipment: the estimated amount of \$147,700 would provide for the acquisition of communications equipment, including VHF handsets, mobile phones and satellite phones (\$34,500), office furniture and equipment (\$21,500), office automation equipment (\$28,800), two vehicles, including freight (\$48,900), public information equipment (\$4,000) and specialized maritime equipment, including gas detectors (\$10,000);

(h) Grants and contributions: the estimated amount of \$3,261,000 would provide mainly for inspection services provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to undertake joint inspections as part of the United Nations assistance to the Joint Coordination Centre, including a team of 16 inspectors who are supported by a dedicated inspections coordinator/supervisor. This inspection capacity would be integrated into the operations team, under the management and oversight of the Head of Operations.

36. In addition, voluntary contributions in kind will be provided, including office facilities for the work of the Joint Coordination Centre and daily transportation between the Joint Coordination Centre and the port and between the port and anchored vessels being inspected, from the Government of Türkiye. Engagement with Ukrainian port authorities would continue to be through the WFP presence in Odesa, with support in this regard provided by WFP on a non-reimbursable basis.

IV. Summary of overall additional resource requirements for the two initiatives

37. The budgetary implications for 2023 amount to \$10,939,500, as shown in table 5, including an additional amount of \$712,000 under section 36, Staff assessment.

Table 5

Estimated additional resource requirements for 2023 by budget section

(Thousands United States dollars)

<i>Programme budget section</i>	<i>Commitment authority (22 July–31 December 2022)</i>	<i>Estimated requirements 2023</i>
Section 12, Trade and development	848.6	2 328.8
Section 27, Humanitarian assistance	2 481.7	7 898.7
Section 36, Staff assessment	194.3	712.0
Total, including staff assessment	3 524.6	10 939.5

38. While the operational environment remains fluid and the use of the above-mentioned resources may be subject to adjustments, the Secretary-General seeks a commitment authority from the General Assembly, with corresponding assessment, in an amount not exceeding \$10,939,500. Expenditure against the commitment authority will be reported in the context of the financial performance report for 2023, at which time the extent to which this expenditure can be accommodated within the existing appropriation of the respective budget sections or within the overall appropriation for 2023 will be determined.

V. Potential for absorption during 2023

39. At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2023 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2023. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through a commitment authority, with assessment, for 2023.

VI. Action requested of the General Assembly

40. The General Assembly is requested:

(a) To approve additional resource requirements in the amount of \$10,939,500 under the programme budget for 2023, under section 12, Trade and development (\$2,328,800), section 27, Humanitarian assistance (\$7,898,700), and section 36, Staff assessment (\$712,000), to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$712,000 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

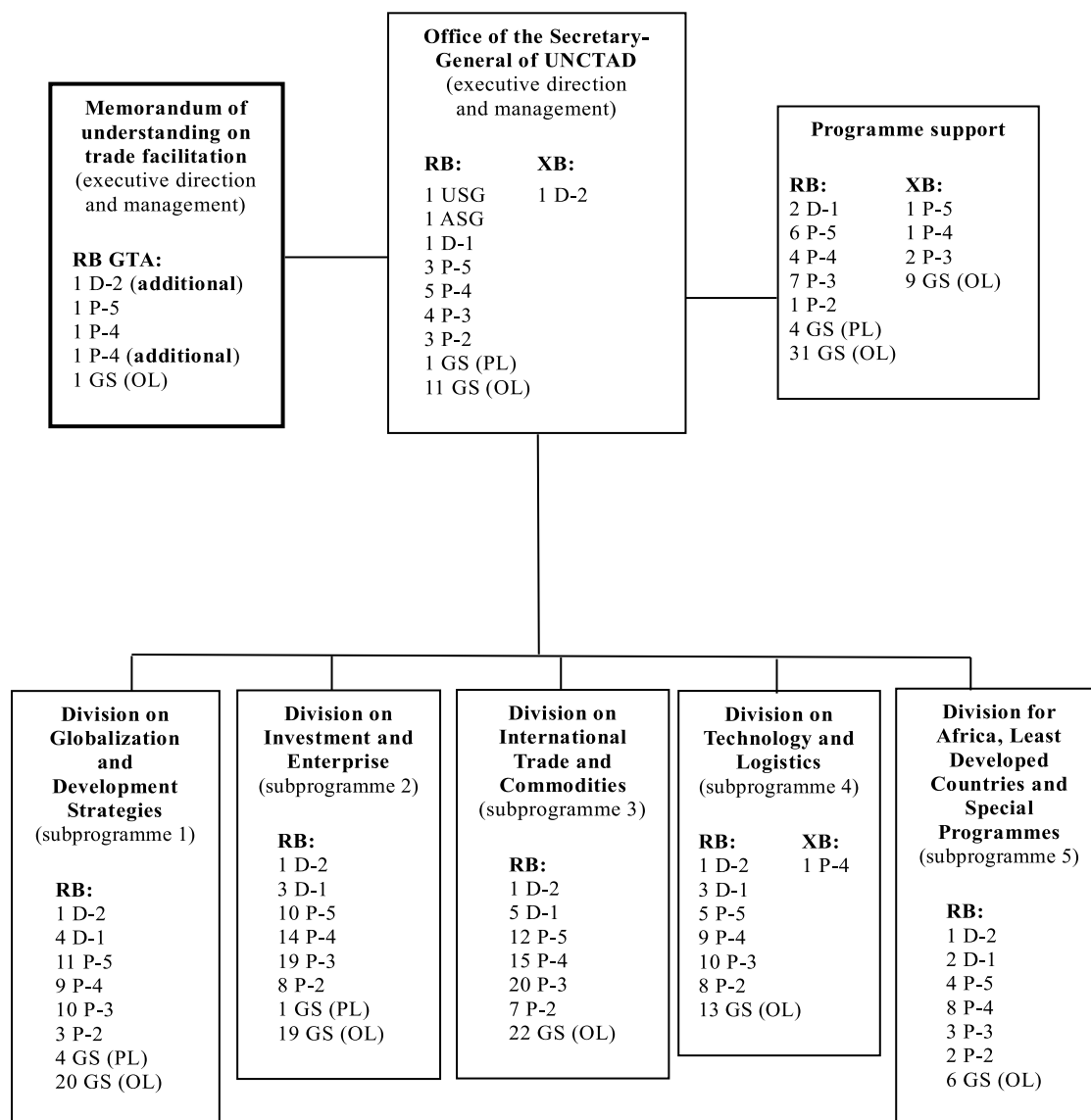
(b) To authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with corresponding assessment, in an amount not exceeding \$10,227,500 (net of staff assessment), which would represent a charge against the contingency fund, for the continuation of United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact in 2023;

(c) To also authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with corresponding assessment, in an amount not exceeding \$712,000 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$712,000 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment;

(d) To take note that the use of the commitment authority of \$10,939,500 for 2023 will be reported in the context of the financial performance report for 2023.

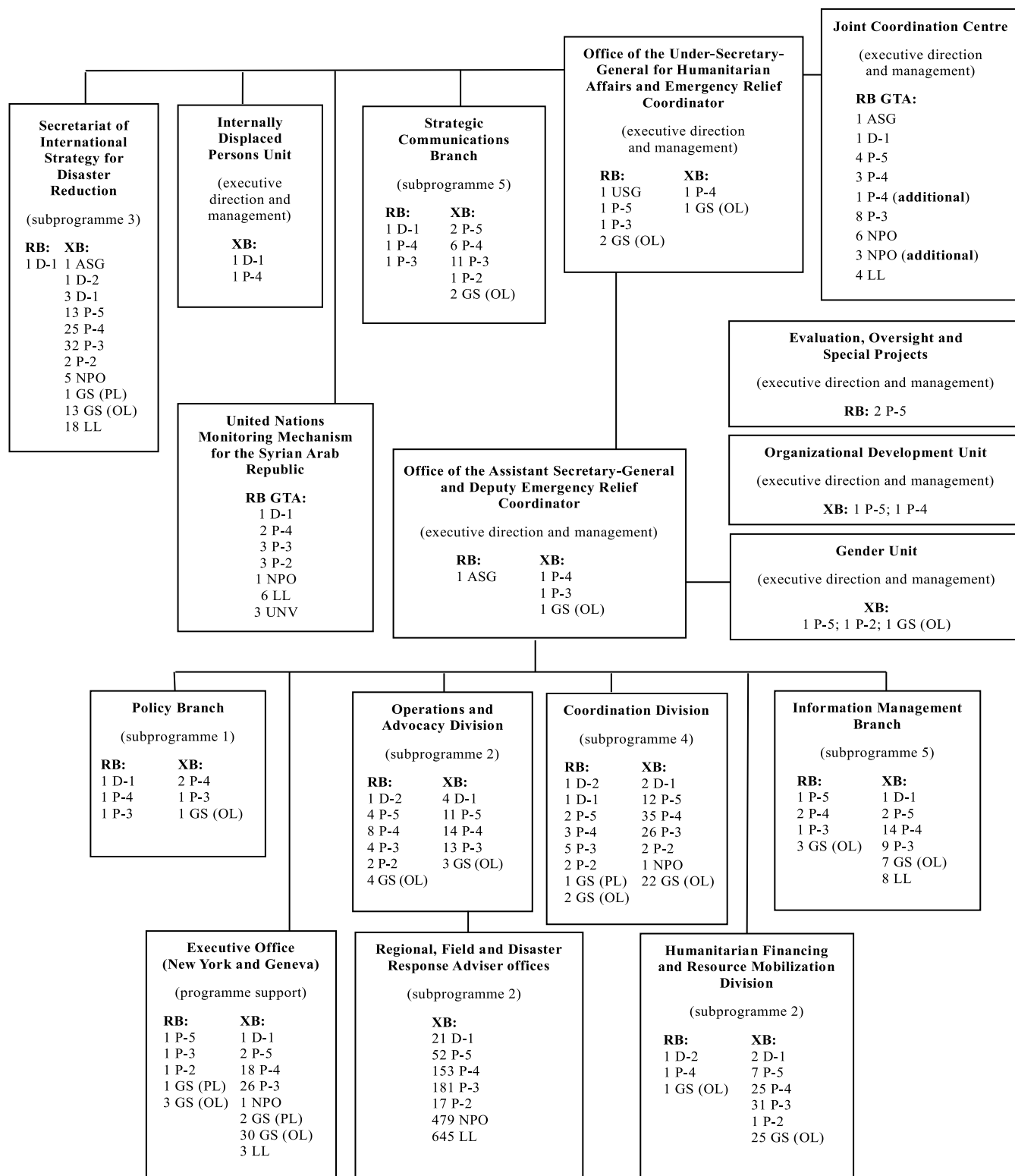
Annex I

A. Organizational structure and post distribution, including for the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation



Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); GTA, general temporary assistance; RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

B. Organizational structure and post distribution, including for the Black Sea Grain Initiative



Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); GTA, general temporary assistance; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; RB, regular budget; UNV, United Nations Volunteer; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

Annex II

Summary of general temporary assistance positions by section for 2023

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Justification including summary of functions</i>
Section 12, Trade and development				
UNCTAD task team	1	D-2	Director/Special Adviser on the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation (additional)	The incumbent would lead the task team on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federation, including liaising with the Government of the Russian Federation and other Governments, as well as with other relevant authorities and representatives of the United Nations relevant to the implementation of the initiative. For 2022, this position was funded under a non-reimbursable loan agreement with WFP.
	1	P-5	Senior Coordination Officer	Under the guidance of the UNCTAD Secretary-General and the Special Adviser, the incumbent would implement the activities related to the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation, including the coordination and facilitation of work of the bilateral and multilateral sectoral working groups; analyse incoming requests from the Russian Federation, including information on any impediments to the export of fertilizers and food from the Russian Federation to global markets; and oversee the work of consultants working on assignments related to the implementation of the initiative.
	1	P-4	Economics Affairs Officer	Under the guidance of the senior officials of the team, the incumbent would analyse the impact and potential of the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation on major companies and sectors, including agriculture, chemical (fertilizer), finance, insurance and shipping; liaise with the private sector, including business associations, industry groups and companies, to address issues arising from non-sanctioned trade related to the memorandum of understanding; and prepare notes and presentations on the impact and potential of the memorandum of understanding on commodity markets, especially with regard to food, fertilizers and other essential commodity prices relevant for developing countries.
	1	P-4	Private Sector Liaison Officer (additional)	The incumbent would engage with companies in the private sector to get their buy-in and get them to commit to trade, especially given the complexities of various legal regimes across countries. The request for the additional P-4 position would support the requirements for strengthened engagement.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Justification including summary of functions</i>
	1	GS (OL)	Programme Assistant	The incumbent would provide assistance in support of the planning and implementation of activities and processes related to the memorandum of understanding on trade facilitation; and serve as the focal point for the coordination, monitoring and expeditious implementation of activities, which involves extensive liaison with diverse organizational units to initiate requests, obtain necessary clearances, process and follow up on administrative actions and resolve any issues related to project implementation, e.g. recruitment of personnel, travel arrangements, disbursement of funds and procurement of equipment and services.
Total, section 12	5			
Section 27, Humanitarian assistance				
Office of the United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative	1	ASG	United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative	The incumbent would represent the Secretary-General on all matters relating to the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, subject to United Nations authorities and mandates, and would report to the Chef de Cabinet through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs; chair daily plenary meetings of the Joint Coordination Centre, oversee and lead the participation of the United Nations in the Joint Coordination Centre, including broader United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, strategy development and planning; and serve as the primary senior-level United Nations interlocutor with the parties to the Black Sea Grain Initiative and external stakeholders.
	1	P-4	Political Affairs Officer	The incumbent would provide political advice to the United Nations Coordinator and support and facilitate coordination across the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, with a particular focus on external engagements by the United Nations Coordinator with Member States and other interlocutors.
	1	P-3	Special Assistant	The incumbent would report directly to the United Nations Coordinator and would ensure the day-to-day management of the front office, including in relation to correspondence flow, daily scheduling, drafting of correspondence and ensuring the timeliness, substance and quality of documents for clearance by the United Nations Coordinator, briefing notes and other background documents, and mission/travel planning. If necessary, the incumbent would also provide supplementary translation and interpretation support during plenary meetings of the Joint Coordination Centre.
	1	LL	Driver	The incumbent would support the United Nations Coordinator and the Deputy United Nations Coordinator.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Justification including summary of functions</i>
Office of the Deputy Coordinator	1	D-1	Deputy United Nations Coordinator/Chief of Staff	The incumbent would deputize for the United Nations Coordinator in relation to all functions outlined above; provide strategic oversight and management across key pillars of the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative on behalf of the United Nations Coordinator, including secretariat support, operations, administration and communications, while ensuring coherence across these pillars; and maintain ongoing contact with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and all other relevant Headquarters entities on the required assistance in the implementation of the Initiative.
Secretariat to the Joint Coordination Centre	1	P-5	Senior Political Affairs Officer/Head of Unit	As Head of the secretariat to the Joint Coordination Centre, the incumbent would serve as the primary political adviser to the United Nations Coordinator and the Deputy United Nations Coordinator on matters relating to the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative; provide ongoing assistance to the parties to the Black Sea Grain Initiative and to the work of the Joint Coordination Centre specifically, including in relation to plenary discussions concerning maritime routes, inspection procedures, security and all other matters linked to the safe and unhindered movement of commercial traffic through the agreed maritime humanitarian corridor; and oversee additional secretariat assistance in this regard.
	1	P-3	Political Affairs Officer	The incumbent would support all functions outlined above in relation to the Senior Political Affairs Officer with a focus on United Nations secretariat assistance, including the preparation of documentation, translation support, drafting and political analysis in support of the work of the Joint Coordination Centre and ongoing engagement among parties to the Initiative.
	2	NPO	National Humanitarian Affairs Officer/Liaison Officer (additional)	The incumbents would support ongoing liaison and follow-up between the Joint Coordination Centre secretariat and shipping agents, vessel masters and others on issues arising from discussions at plenary meetings of the Joint Coordination Centre, working in close coordination with the operations team and the Head of Operations, in particular. The proposed additional positions are required for dedicated liaison functions, as a result of the increased demand for liaison functions of this nature, which were being carried out by existing staff in addition to their normal functions.
Media and Communications Unit	1	P-5	Spokesperson	The incumbent would serve as the senior spokesperson for the United Nations support for the Black Sea Grain Initiative, working in close coordination with the parties to the Initiative. The Spokesperson would also lead United Nations strategic communications planning and strategy development in close coordination with Headquarters and day-to-day engagement with the media on the United Nations assistance for the work of the Joint Coordination Centre and the movement of vessels under the

Section	Number	Grade	Functional title	Justification including summary of functions
Reporting and Information Management Unit				Initiative; liaise on an ongoing basis with the delegations of the three parties to the Initiative; ensure quality control of public information products and digital platforms relating to the Initiative; and supervise the work of a Public Information Officer (P-3) and a National Media Officer (NPO). A robust media and communications capacity is required in view of the sensitive nature of the work, the key importance of transparency, and high levels of public interest in the implementation of the Initiative from international, regional and national media, industry analysts and commentators and Member States.
	1	P-3	Public Information Officer	The incumbent would support and backstop the Spokesperson across all activities outlined above, with a particular focus on such tasks as the development of key messages and public information products in response to media requests, in coordination with relevant United Nations offices at Headquarters and in Türkiye and the region. The incumbent would also be in charge of the day-to-day maintenance and update of multimedia and digital platforms, including the United Nations website on the Black Sea Grain Initiative.
	1	NPO	National Media Officer (Istanbul)	The incumbent would support the Spokesperson and the Public Information Officer in all the aspects outlined above, with a particular emphasis on engagement with local media and the packaging of data-heavy technical reports into accessible products for media consumption. The incumbent would also liaise with national and local authorities in relation to media coverage of activities of the Joint Coordination Centre, including inspections, work with journalists to strengthen advocacy and support the monitoring and analysis of media reports on the Black Sea Grain Initiative.
	1	P-4	Head of Reporting and Information Management	The incumbent would oversee the production of public and internal monitoring and reporting products and ensure adherence to quality standards and timelines. The incumbent would also oversee database management and analysis, telecommunications and cybersecurity, mapping and infographics, as well as technical aspects of websites and information products.
	1	P-3	Reports Officer	The incumbent would serve as the primary technical focal point on the production of internal and external reports on the work of the Joint Coordination Centre and the broader functioning of the Initiative. Key outputs would include daily and weekly situation reports and updates tailored to a range of audiences. The incumbent would also maintain a database on vessel movements, working in close coordination with the operations team, cross-check information with the delegations and various external actors, and further refine breakdowns and presentation of data on cargo, destinations and impact.
	1	NPO	National Information Management Officer (Istanbul)	The incumbent would serve as the primary technical focal point for the development of information management processes, tools and products, including infographics for publications, and the maintenance and analysis of various data sheets and databases.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Justification including summary of functions</i>
Operations	1	P-5	Head of Operations	The incumbent would provide technical oversight and leadership on the operational aspects of the United Nations assistance for the work of the Joint Coordination Centre and broader implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, including by leading and managing the work of United Nations members of the inspection teams inspecting inbound and outbound vessels engaging with the Initiative, and the 24-hour watch room within the Joint Coordination Centre; oversee the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures relating to operational aspects of the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative; serve as the primary senior technical focal point on maritime matters and engagement in this regard with external entities, including the International Maritime Organization.
	1	P-4	Joint Operations Officer/ Deputy Head of Operations (additional)	The incumbent would deputize for the Head of Operations in relation to all functions outlined above, with a particular focus on supporting the increased requirements for management and oversight of United Nations inspections capacity and the work of the watch room.
	3	P-3	Joint Operations Officer/ Watchkeeper	The incumbents would maintain the 24-hour watch room within the Joint Coordination Centre, monitoring movements of vessels through the maritime humanitarian corridor and ensuring adherence to agreed procedures and protocols.
	3	NPO	Information Analyst/ Watchkeeper (1 additional)	The incumbents would be part of the 24-hour watch room within the Joint Coordination Centre, monitoring movements of vessels through the maritime humanitarian corridor and ensuring adherence to agreed procedures and protocols. An additional position is proposed as a result of the volume of the workload to date, with a view to ensuring sufficient rotational capacity within the watch room at all times.
Administration	1	P-5	Senior Administrative Officer	The incumbent would manage all administrative aspects (including human resources, financial, procurement, communications and information technology) of the United Nations assistance to the Joint Coordination Centre and the broader implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, within delegated authorities. Functions include administrative oversight of secondment and recruitment of local and international personnel, management of contracts and consultancies, development of internal administrative procedures and processes, and general financial oversight for the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Initiative.
	1	P-3	Human Resources Officer	The incumbent would ensure efficient and timely recruitment of international and national personnel, and human resources management across the United Nations assistance in the implementation of the Initiative. The incumbent would also deputize for the Head of Administration across other areas of administrative support.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Justification including summary of functions</i>
Headquarters support	2	NPO	National Administration and Finance Officer	The incumbents would support the Senior Administrative Officer and the functions of the Unit referred to above. One position will be based in Istanbul and the other one in Ankara to provide administrative and financial support across all aspects of the work of the United Nations participation in the Joint Coordination Centre. A team member based in Ankara would ensure links with the broader United Nations operations and systems, and engagement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government entities.
	1	LL	Operations Assistant (Istanbul)	The incumbents of the three Local level positions would provide administrative support in the areas of facilities and equipment maintenance; administration of personnel; review of contracts and memorandums of understanding; and provision of information and communications technology support.
	1	LL	Information and Communications Technology Assistant	
	1	LL	Teams Assistant	
	1	P-4	Humanitarian Affairs Officer	The incumbent would support liaison and engagement between the Office of the Coordinator and Headquarters entities, including the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other Secretariat offices and departments, on all matters relating to the Initiative. The incumbent would also support engagement with Member States at Headquarters in relation to the Initiative and the coordination of broader support being mobilized from across Headquarters for United Nations assistance provided within the Joint Coordination Centre.
Total, section 27	31			

Annex III

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/77/486)

Recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

The Advisory Committee trusts that more detailed information on the accessibility and beneficial impact of the Initiatives for the Member States, in particular the least developed countries and low-income food-deficit countries, will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and included in the next report of the Secretary-General (see also table 2 and paras. 13 and 23 of the report) (para. 9).

The response is contained in paragraph 29 of the present report.

On the basis of in-scope requests received from the Russian Federation, liaising with the private sector, including business associations, industry groups and companies, to address issues arising from non-sanctioned trade related to the memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and the United Nations (ibid., paras. 22–24). The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Initiative will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next submission of the Secretary-General (see also para. 9 of the report) (para. 13 (c)).

The response is contained in paragraphs 16 to 19 of the present report.

Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the quantity of food transported under the Black Sea Grain Initiative had increased to 3.06 million tons as at 14 September 2022 and that updated information was regularly provided on the Initiative's website (www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative/vessel-movements). The Committee was further informed that, owing to the conflict, insurance rates had increased significantly, from 0.01 per cent to 4–5 per cent; with the Initiative, insurance rates decreased to about 2 per cent and could be reduced further to 0.5 per cent. The Committee was also provided with table 2 on the quantity of food transported by destination, in descending order of magnitude, noting that tracking by the Joint Coordination Centre does not reflect subsequent trans-shipment or re-export following processing in initial destinations. The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next submission of the Secretary-General (see also para. 9 of the report) (para. 23).

Relevant issues are addressed in paragraph 29 of the present report. The volume of food transported under the Initiative changes on a daily basis and, as such, the inclusion of information based on a static point in time during the preparation of the present report would be superseded by more current information by the time of the legislative review of the present report. The latest information is available on the website of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative/vessel-movements).