



# General Assembly

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Agenda items 63 and 138

**Report of the Human Rights Council**

**Proposed programme budget for 2023**

## **Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth special session, in 2022**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present report provides estimated resource requirements (excluding staff assessment) of \$2,764,000 for 2023 resulting from resolution [S-35/1](#), adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth special session, held on 24 November 2022. The present report serves as an addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first regular sessions, and at its thirty-fourth special session, in 2022 ([A/77/579](#)).

#### **II. Additional requirements relating to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council**

##### **Thirty-fifth special session**

##### **Resolution [S-35/1](#)**

##### **Deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially with respect to women and children**

2. Under the terms of paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of its resolution [S-35/1](#), the Human Rights Council:

(a) Decided to establish an independent international fact-finding mission, until the end of the fifty-fifth session of the Council, to be appointed by the President of the Council, with the following mandate:



(i) Thoroughly and independently investigate alleged human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran related to the protests that began on 16 September 2022, especially with respect to women and children;

(ii) Establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violations;

(iii) Collect, consolidate and analyse evidence of such violations and preserve evidence, including in view of cooperation in any legal proceedings;

(iv) Engage with all relevant stakeholders, including the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, relevant United Nations entities, human rights organizations and civil society;

(b) Requested the independent international fact-finding mission to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council during an interactive dialogue at its fifty-third session and to present to the Council a comprehensive report on its findings during an interactive dialogue at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) Requested the immediate operationalization of the mandate, requested the Secretary-General to provide all the resources and expertise necessary to enable the fact-finding mission to fulfil its mandate, and requested OHCHR to provide such administrative, technical and logistical support as is required to implement the provisions of the resolution.

3. In order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of the resolution, the following resources and activities are required in 2023 and 2024:

(a) General temporary assistance for a secretariat of 18 staff to support the fact-finding mission, based in Geneva, as follows:

Number and level	Title	Number of months	
		2023	2024
1 P-5	Senior Human Rights Officer (Coordinator)	10	3
1 P-4	Human Rights Officer (Investigation Team Leader)	10	3
1 P-4	Human Rights Officer (Gender Adviser)	10	3
1 P-4	Human Rights Officer (Analyst/Reporting Officer)	9	3
1 P-4	Human Rights Officer (Legal Adviser)	10	3
1 P-4	Political Affairs Officer (Political Adviser)	9	3
1 P-4	Communications Officer (Media Officer)	–	3
1 P-3	Child Protection Officer (Child Rights Expert)	9	3
2 P-3	Human Rights Officers (Open Source Investigators)	9	3
2 P-3	Human Rights Officers (Investigators)	9	3
1 P-3	Human Rights Officer (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Investigator)	9	3
1 P-3	Information Management Officer (Information and Evidence Management Officer)	9	3
1 P-3	Security Coordination Officer	9	3
2 P-2	Interpreters/Translators	9	3
1 General Service (Other level)	Administrative Assistant	10	3

- (i) One Senior Human Rights Officer (Coordinator) (P-5) for 13 months (from 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2024), to manage and coordinate the overall work of the secretariat, including the implementation of the mandate; ensure that experts receive support on substantive, operational and administrative procedures; supervise the development and implementation of the investigation plans, methodology and tools to collect, analyse and preserve information and evidence; oversee investigation plans to protect victims and witnesses; accompany experts in their field missions; act as the main interlocutor on operational and substantive matters with duty bearers and other stakeholders; and take ultimate responsibility for the quality and timely delivery of reports and evidence-preservation efforts;
- (ii) One Human Rights Officer (Investigation Team Leader) (P-4) for 13 months (from 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2024), to manage and coordinate the day-to-day operations of the investigation plans; serve as first reporting officer of the investigation team; develop fact-finding, information-gathering and investigation plans; organize and participate in missions to sites of interest and other places, as required; oversee all investigation team inputs with a view to ensuring that the highest quality standards of investigation, analysis, verification and preservation are upheld, and that the conclusions and recommendations are properly incorporated into the final report; and contribute to the drafting of the final report;
- (iii) One Human Rights Officer (Gender Adviser) (P-4) (to be seconded by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) for 13 months (from 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2024), to advise the staff of the secretariat on the gender dimension of human rights violations, including through gender analysis and training; ensure the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the fact-finding mission; collect and analyse information pertaining to the human rights of women and the gender issues directly related to the mandate; ensure the gender-sensitive documentation, collection and preservation of information, as well as analysis and reporting; advise on gender-sensitive referral pathways for victims and survivors; participate in field missions to gather information; contribute to the drafting of the final report; and suggest gender-specific priority recommendations for inclusion in the final report;
- (iv) One Human Rights Officer (Analyst/Reporting Officer) (P-4) for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to review and analyse the information collected and advise the secretariat staff on addressing gaps and identifying lines of inquiry; prepare analytical documents, as required; coordinate the drafting of the final report and act as its lead drafter; assist in drawing analytical conclusions; propose the structure of the reports and the visual representation of the findings and conclusions; and assist in developing actionable and gender-sensitive recommendations;
- (v) One Human Rights Officer (Legal Adviser) (P-4) for 13 months (from 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2024) to conduct extensive legal research and analysis on the body of information and evidence collected by the secretariat with a view to identifying alleged perpetrators; assess evidence for relevance and use in accordance with established OHCHR consent practices; prepare evidentiary material for disclosure to accountability bodies; draft legal documents on a variety of subjects; provide legal advice and support with regard to the investigations and analysis by conducting relevant research; and brief the investigators on the specific elements of violations and the types of information and materials that may prove the violations according to the investigation's standard of proof;

(vi) One Political Affairs Officer (Political Adviser) (P-4) for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to research and analyse the political system and the security and military structures in the Islamic Republic of Iran and provide regular and up-to-date mapping of those structures and their impact in response to developments on the ground; analyse the impact of regional geopolitical developments on developments in the country; review and monitor activities in the country that are relevant to the mandate; provide an assessment of the operating environment for law enforcement and other security forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and assess related trends and patterns;

(vii) One Communications Officer (Media Officer) (P-4) for three months (from 1 January to 31 March 2024), to develop a gender-sensitive media and advocacy strategy for the fact-finding mission in collaboration with the Coordinator and members of the secretariat ahead of the presentation of the final report to the Human Rights Council; reply to media inquiries; accompany the experts of the fact-finding mission during the presentation of the report to the Council; undertake activities to promote major events relating to the mandate; and liaise with other relevant international and regional media;

(viii) One Child Protection Officer (Child Rights Expert) (P-3) for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to collect, investigate, document and analyse information related to child rights and child protection issues and advise the secretariat on specific lines of inquiry; conduct information-gathering activities, including field missions and interviews; contribute to the overall investigation plan; and suggest priority recommendations specific to child rights for inclusion in the final report;

(ix) Two Human Rights Officers (Open Source Investigators) (P-3) for 12 months each (1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to establish open source intelligence strategies on the use of open source data in investigations, including security measures; conduct open source investigations of cases involving alleged violations of international human rights; set up open source intelligence tools and analytical systems; identify, preserve, collect and analyse potentially relevant online open source data; ensure the documentation, chain of custody and integrity of the collected data, when necessary for evidentiary purpose; undertake the verification and authentication of digital content, such as audio, images and videos, following internationally recognized forensic standards; perform advanced analytic tasks, including geospatial, link and chronological analysis, and draft reports of high quality; and comply with institutional guidelines and protocols on digital-evidence-handling and information security;

(x) Two Human Rights Officers (Investigators) (P-3) for 12 months each (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to research, collect and analyse information and documentation pertaining to human rights violations as required by the mandate; propose information-gathering methods and tools; conduct timely monitoring of trends and patterns of violations; conduct information-gathering activities, including through in-person and remote interviews with victims and witnesses; ensure the preservation of the information collected; organize and participate in missions to sites of violations or other places as required; ensure the effective use of referral pathways and protection measures; and provide inputs to the final report;

(xi) One Human Rights Officer (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Investigator) (P-3) for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to research, collect and analyse information and documentation on sexual and gender-based violence, as required by the mandate; conduct investigations into sexual and gender-based violence, including through interviews with victims

and survivors; organize and participate in missions to sites of violations or other places, as required; ensure the effective use of referral pathways and protection measures for survivors and witnesses; provide inputs to the final report; and ensure that a gender perspective and gender-sensitive approaches are integrated at all stages of the investigation, analysis and report-drafting;

(xii) One Information Management Officer (Information and Evidence Management Officer) (P-3) for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to process collected data and guide staff on appropriate review and analysis procedures to maintain the forensic integrity of data; manage data ingestion, processing and indexing; manage information and evidence systems, related processes and applications, and communicate technical issues related to defensible evidence-handling and data transfer as required; keep track of e-discovery infrastructure usage, including information security aspects; monitor project progress against standard workflows; and ensure the use of guidelines and protocols and contribute to their development and improvement;

(xiii) One Security Coordination Officer (P-3) for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to advise the secretariat on all security-related matters; conduct security risk assessments for all locations where the team will operate; accompany the team members on field missions; liaise on a daily basis with local security forces to provide proper security coverage for the team's activities; coordinate security coverage for team members on their field missions; and act as liaison officer between the fact-finding mission and the United Nations Department for Safety and Security;

(xiv) Two Interpreters/Translators for Persian (Farsi) (P-2) for 12 months each (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024), to provide accurate interpretation and translation as required, from Farsi into English and vice versa; join field missions; produce accurate simultaneous interpretation of oral witness statements from Farsi into English and vice versa, including those provided through remote means of communication; maintain strict confidentiality of information; integrate a gender perspective, especially in relation to the use of gender-sensitive language and support for the effective and gender-sensitive documentation of sexual and gender-based violence; and perform any other language-related tasks, as necessary, including in support of the work of the Investigators;

(xv) One Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) for 13 months (from 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2024), to provide support in the management of all issues related to logistics, finance and human resources; provide overall administrative assistance to the fact-finding mission for all travel of the members and experts; support the secretariat in the preparation, conduct and follow-up of all field missions; and support the planning and organization of investigative team meetings and high-level meetings in Geneva and elsewhere;

(b) Travel of representatives (three human rights experts):

2023

(i) One trip of five days to Geneva for the OHCHR induction, diplomatic briefings and meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations organizations, international non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders;

(ii) One trip of five days to various locations in the European region to conduct fact-finding activities, meetings and interviews with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, refugees, and migrants;

(iii) One trip of five days to various locations in the Caucasus region to conduct fact-finding activities, meetings and interviews with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, refugees, and migrants;

(iv) One trip of five days to Geneva to present an oral update to the Council during an interactive dialogue at its fifty-third session, in July 2023;

#### 2024

(v) One trip of five days to Geneva for briefings and meetings with the secretariat and regional stakeholders;

(vi) One trip of five days to Geneva to present the final report to the Council at its fifty-fifth session;

(c) Travel of staff:

#### 2023

(i) One trip of five days by four secretariat staff to various locations in the European region to accompany the three experts and to conduct fact-finding activities, meetings and interviews with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, refugees, and migrants;

(ii) One trip of five days by four secretariat staff to various locations in the Caucasus region to accompany the three experts and to conduct fact-finding activities, meetings and interviews with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, refugees, and migrants;

(iii) Three trips of 12 days each by six secretariat staff to relevant regions to conduct fact-finding activities, meetings and interviews with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, refugees, and migrants;

#### 2024

(iv) One trip of nine days by four secretariat staff to relevant regions to conduct fact-finding activities, meetings and interviews with all concerned stakeholders, including the relevant authorities, United Nations and civil society representatives, victims and witnesses, refugees, and migrants;

(d) One international consultant (level C) to supplement staff expertise with specialized professional knowledge and advice (three months, in 2023 and 2024);

(e) Contractual services for subscription to software licences; analysis and commissioning of satellite images; and local interpretation services;

(f) General operating expenses for office space in Geneva, including utilities and cleaning services; Information Communication and Technology Service; rental of vehicles for field missions; meeting expenses during field missions; miscellaneous services; and security services;

(g) Supplies and materials for expendable office supplies;

(h) Furniture and equipment for office automation equipment, including computers and phones; security equipment; and miscellaneous information technology and office equipment;

(i) Grants and contributions for travel of witnesses;

(j) Conference services for the editing and translation of the comprehensive written report to be presented at the fifty-fifth session of the Council.

Table 1

**Resolution S-35/1: requirements for implementation**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Additional requirements for 2023</i>	<i>Requirements for 2024</i>	<i>Total requirements</i>
<b>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</b>			
Documentation	—	34 000	34 000
<b>Subtotal, section 2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>34 000</b>	<b>34 000</b>
<b>Section 24, Human rights</b>			
Other staff costs	2 122 500	741 800	2 864 300
Consultants	23 500	4 700	28 200
Travel of representatives	92 800	48 100	140 900
Travel of staff	101 400	14 800	116 200
Contractual services	161 800	5 000	166 800
General operating expenses	154 100	46 300	200 400
Supplies and materials	2 700	900	3 600
Furniture and equipment	75 200	—	75 200
Grants and contributions	30 000	15 000	45 000
<b>Subtotal, section 24</b>	<b>2 764 000</b>	<b>876 600</b>	<b>3 640 600</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 764 000</b>	<b>910 600</b>	<b>3 674 600</b>

4. The related provisions have not been included in the proposed programme budget for 2023. **Therefore, additional requirements of \$2,764,000, under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for 2023, would be required to implement the mandate given in paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of the resolution.**

5. As detailed in table 2, total additional requirements to implement the mandates pursuant to resolution S-35/1 amount to \$2,764,000, plus an amount of \$339,800 for staff assessment.

Table 2

**Resolution S-35/1: requirements for implementation (total, including staff assessment)**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Total requirements for 2023</i>	<i>Included in the 2023 budget</i>	<i>Additional requirements for 2023</i>
<b>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</b>			
Fact-finding mission	—	—	—
<b>Subtotal, section 2</b>	—	—	—
<b>Section 24, Human rights</b>			
Fact-finding mission	2 764 000	—	2 764 000
<b>Subtotal, section 24</b>	<b>2 764 000</b>	—	<b>2 764 000</b>
<b>Total, excluding staff assessment</b>	<b>2 764 000</b>	—	<b>2 764 000</b>
<b>Section 36, Staff assessment</b>	<b>339 800</b>	—	<b>339 800</b>
<b>Total, including staff assessment</b>	<b>3 103 800</b>	—	<b>3 103 800</b>

6. The additional requirements for 2024 would be included in the proposed programme budget for 2024.

### III. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

7. The General Assembly is requested:

(a) To approve an additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund, in the amount of \$2,764,000 under the programme budget for 2023, under section 24, Human rights;

(b) To approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$339,800 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2023, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$339,800 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.