



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
18 March 2022

Original: English

## Seventy-seventh session

Items 139 and 140 of the preliminary list\*

## Proposed programme budget for 2023

### Programme planning

## Proposed programme budget for 2023

### Part IV

### International cooperation for development

### Section 10

## Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

### Programme 8

### Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

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\* [A/77/50](#).

\*\* In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the General Assembly.

\*\*\* In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.



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## Foreword

Over the course of 2023, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the 91 most vulnerable Member States, to ensure that their special needs and challenges remain the focus of global solidarity, including by building their resilience and providing better and quicker access to finance relief, given that many continue to struggle with the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), climate change and debt.

With the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries again postponed from 2022 to 2023, our focus for least developed countries is on pivoting towards building innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships that will boost the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, at a time of deepening inequalities and crisis.

The road map for the accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action will continue to guide our coordinating work in support of the landlocked developing States, which has contributed to the implementation of climate-resilient transport infrastructure projects. We will also continue to organize training workshops for policymakers in the landlocked developing countries, equipping them with the knowledge and networks to deliver transformative projects.

For small island developing States, we anticipate that the roll-out of the multidimensional vulnerability index will be crucial to defining the vulnerabilities of small island developing States, in order to better guide development financing to these countries.

Substantive national and regional preparations and support for intergovernmental processes for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries will also be key pillars of the engagement of the Office of the High Representative in 2023.

In a world still in the grips of a global pandemic, we remain steadfast on our multifaceted support for the most vulnerable countries on their road to sustainable recovery and accelerated implementation of their programmes of action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

*(Signed)* Heidi **Schroderus-Fox**

Acting High Representative

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries,  
Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

## **A. Proposed programme plan for 2023 and programme performance in 2021**

### **Overall orientation**

#### **Mandates and background**

- 10.1 The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is responsible for advocating for, supporting, mobilizing, coordinating and reporting on the implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the achievement of other internationally agreed goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The mandate of the Office derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including resolution [56/227](#), whereby the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; resolution [69/15](#), whereby the Assembly endorsed the small island developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; resolution [69/137](#), whereby the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024; and resolution [76/XXX](#), whereby the Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031.
- 10.2 The implementation of the three programmes of action, namely, the Doha Programme of Action, the Vienna Programme of Action and the Samoa Pathway, are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supporting progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda indicated that, in the context of the global follow-up and review processes of the Agenda, effective linkages should be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including those on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. As the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic crisis continues to have an impact on all countries and regions in the world, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States experience a disproportionate social and economic fallout from the pandemic, owing in large part to limited capacities and financial resources. These same binding constraints, if not addressed, will thwart their ability to sustainably recover from the pandemic and accelerate implementation of their programmes of action and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. More than before, the most vulnerable countries need continued and stronger international attention, action and support.

#### **Strategy and external factors for 2023**

- 10.3 Following the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action, the most important task ahead for least developed countries and the international community is one of ensuring its effective implementation, in support of the 2030 Agenda. This could not happen without mainstreaming the provisions of the new Programme of Action into least developed countries' national strategic planning and the mobilization of commensurate resources and knowledge in support of the recovery of least developed countries from the COVID-19 pandemic and their sustainable development.
- 10.4 As the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action begins, the two other constituencies of the Office – the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States – and their development partners will embark on comprehensive reviews of the implementation of programmes of action of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The outcomes of these reviews will inform the next generation of global compacts that are aimed at addressing the special needs of these two groups of countries.
- 10.5 In pursuit of these priorities, the Office will raise awareness, mobilize support and build consensus. Key audiences will continue to be built both in the most vulnerable countries, as well as in partner

countries and in regional and global organizations and forums. The Office will also mobilize resources to ensure that least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States participate in the process and have their voices heard in global deliberations. These resources will also enable the representatives from the most vulnerable countries to benefit from capacity-building activities, peer-learning and the exchange of best practices, all on thematic areas relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals and to building resilience in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Office will forge broad and durable partnerships, including within and outside the United Nations system, for the advancement of sustainable development in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Cognizant of the importance of the involvement of young people in the implementation of and follow-up to the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, the Office will enhance cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to foster the involvement, participation and input of young people in intergovernmental negotiations and United Nations processes.

- 10.6 For 2023, the Office's planned deliverables will support Member States in their ongoing management of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Such planned deliverables and activities include bringing more prominence to sustainable recovery from the pandemic in the content of the Office's knowledge generation, advocacy and intergovernmental backstopping support, and designing and delivering cross-cutting activities and deliverables for all three groups of countries, such as on climate change, debt sustainability and accelerating the sustainable energy transition. Such planned deliverables and activities feature in the preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which will include exploring ways to address challenges posed by COVID-19 and build resilience against future shocks in the context of new global frameworks for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
- 10.7 Reflecting the importance of continuous improvement and responding to the needs and requests of Member States, the proposed programme plan for 2023 continues to incorporate lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of the programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, it is assumed that those operational conditions have improved and allow for mandate implementation through formerly established approaches. Any modifications to planned deliverables would be in pursuance of the objectives, strategies and mandates and would be reported as part of the programme performance information.
- 10.8 Cooperation with other entities at the global and regional levels will be anchored through the inter-agency consultative groups for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of which the Office is a convener. The groups will continue to offer space in which United Nations entities and other international organizations, exchange information on their work on the most vulnerable countries, strengthen coordination of their activities and mount joint inter-agency activities.
- 10.9 The Office's footprint at the national level will rely on its cooperation with the networks of national focal points for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and those of United Nations resident coordinators. Designed as an interface between the global, regional and national processes, the national focal points promote coherence and coordination on issues relevant to the three groups of countries and policy formulation, implementation, and follow-up and review of their programmes of action, the 2030 Agenda and other global frameworks. Complementary to the national focal points are the resident coordinator networks that help to promote integration of the programmes of action into the United Nations strategic plans and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, along with supporting resident coordinators in engaging with Member States on the ground on specific issues relating to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

- 10.10 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2023 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) The security and political situation in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and in their surrounding regions is conducive to the implementation of the three programmes of actions, namely, the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031, the Vienna Programme of Action and the Samoa Pathway;
  - (b) Continued international support measures in the areas of development finance, market access, technology and technical assistance are made available by development partners in favour of these countries.
- 10.11 The Office integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. For example, as part of its monitoring and reporting work, the Office will include gender-disaggregated data and analysis across its reports.
- 10.12 In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Office will continue to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion into its programme of work, to reflect the intersection of disabilities and sustainable development in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in outreach products such as remarks and talking points by the Office, and reports, factsheets and web content to increase awareness of disability perspectives in the implementation of the relevant programmes of action.

## **Programme performance in 2021**

### **Impact of the pandemic**

- 10.13 The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2021 had an impact on the implementation of mandates, in particular the modalities of the programme's delivery of its support to the three constituencies. As a result of COVID-19, the Office pivoted towards virtual delivery of its analytical, advocacy, partnership-building and capacity-building activities, as described in the programme performance in 2021 under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3. Limited broadband connectivity across the three groups of countries; reduced opportunities for networking, forging partnerships, peer learning and exchange of best practices among these representatives; and geographical dispersion across the world and over different time zones posed challenges to the effectiveness of delivery of support to Member States through virtual means.

## **Legislative mandates**

- 10.14 The list below provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

### *General Assembly resolutions*

<a href="#">56/227</a>	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	<a href="#">70/1</a>	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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### **Subprogramme 1 Least developed countries**

### *General Assembly resolutions*

<a href="#">56/227</a>	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	<a href="#">70/294</a>	Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020
<a href="#">65/280</a>	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020		

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<a href="#">74/232</a> ; <a href="#">74/232 B</a> ; <a href="#">75/227</a> , <a href="#">76/216</a>	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	<a href="#">76/XXX</a>	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031
<a href="#">76/251</a>	Further modalities of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries		

### *Economic and Social Council resolutions*

<a href="#">2021/19</a>	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020		
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### **Subprogramme 2 Landlocked developing countries**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

<a href="#">69/137</a>	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	<a href="#">74/15</a>	Political Declaration of the High-level Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
<a href="#">73/243</a> ; <a href="#">74/233</a> ; <a href="#">75/228</a> , <a href="#">76/217</a>	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries		

### **Subprogramme 3 Small island developing States**

#### *General Assembly resolutions*

<a href="#">59/311</a>	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	<a href="#">73/228</a> ; <a href="#">74/217</a> ; <a href="#">75/215</a> ; <a href="#">76/203</a>	Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
<a href="#">69/15</a>	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway		
<a href="#">72/279</a>	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	<a href="#">74/3</a>	Political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
<a href="#">72/307</a>	Modalities for the high-level review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway		

## **Deliverables**

10.15 Table 10.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 10.1  
Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	7	7	7	7
Meetings of:				
1. The Groups of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	4	4	4	4
2. The Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
3. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
4. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	1	1	1	1
5. Thematic reports of the Office of the High Representative	1	1	1	1
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> briefing for all Member States on issues pertaining to all three subprogrammes.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> databases on topics of relevance to Member States, including but not limited to the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and achievement of goals under the various programmes of action.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> strategic communications materials supporting global outreach campaigns and other materials supporting common agendas, especially the Sustainable Development Goals.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases, media briefings and targeted interviews with select media.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> website of the Office of the High Representative, reflecting key thematic priorities and support events, providing a platform for research, analysis and opinion on major themes.				

## Evaluation activities

- 10.16 The evaluation of the project strengthening productive capacity in least developed countries through the provision of an enabling environment for investment in sustainable energy, completed in 2021 has guided the proposed programme plan for 2023.
- 10.17 The results and lessons of the evaluation report referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2023. The report recognizes, among others, the importance of appropriate partnerships to ensure delivery at the country level and of in-person meetings, when conditions allow, for peer learning and exchange of best practices. Building on these recommendations, the Office plans to forge stronger partnerships with United Nations organizations, within inter-agency consultative groups and with other important stakeholders, including through the networks of national focal points and United Nations resident coordinators, and with the view to advancing the development agenda of the most vulnerable countries. In addition, the Office intends to opt for modalities of delivery of its meetings that build on the advantages of virtual and in-person interaction while minimizing their shortcomings.
- 10.18 An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Office's support for the network of the national focal points of least developed countries is planned for 2023.



## Programme of work

### Subprogramme 1 Least developed countries

#### Objective

- 10.19 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies to eradicate poverty in the least developed countries and accelerate structural transformation of their economies; and to ensure effective graduation from the least developed country category.

#### Strategy

- 10.20 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Continue to provide support to Member States in their intergovernmental processes related to the priorities of least developed countries, including by supporting the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action;
  - (b) Prepare analytical materials on how to address the specific challenges of the least developed countries and facilitate related exchanges of experiences and peer learning on critical enablers to poverty eradication and structural transformation, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective, especially in the areas of skills development and investment promotion;
  - (c) Continue its advocacy activities related to resource mobilization for sustainable development in the least developed countries, especially with respect to public and private financing, including innovative finance, for resilience-building, and therefore support Member States in making progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (d) Continue to provide support to countries graduating from the least developed country category through leading the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, organizing workshops and technical support on establishing consultative mechanisms with development partners and preparing smooth transition strategies, and continue to facilitate peer learning, as graduating countries can benefit from the experience of countries that have already graduated;
  - (e) Support Member States on issues related to COVID-19 by providing policy advice relevant to least developed countries towards enhancing resilience, including support for building partnerships.
- 10.21 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Enhanced capacity of the least developed countries to accelerate progress towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, including the goals of the Doha Programme of Action, and addressing the challenges of the impact of COVID-19;
  - (b) Enhanced capacity of graduating countries with respect to a smooth transition out of the least developed country category.

## Programme performance in 2021

### Enhanced capacity of researchers from least developed countries to provide policy advice

- 10.22 The research capacity in many least developed countries is limited. The share of scientific publications in least developed countries was less than 1 per cent of the global total in 2019, despite accounting for 13 per cent of the world's population. Furthermore, these countries have few female researchers. The subprogramme has invited researchers from least developed countries and those working on least developed countries to various meetings that it organized to discuss the main challenges of least developed countries over the past years. In 2021, the subprogramme organized an academic conference, the LDC Future Forum, in hybrid format. Of the 240 researchers and policymakers who attended the Forum, some 70 participated in person (half of whom were women). The Forum enabled an exchange

of views and experiences between policymakers, practitioners and researchers from least developed countries and other countries to contribute to country-specific and evidence-based policymaking, including in the areas of poverty eradication, human development, structural transformation, emerging technologies, climate adaptation and access to finance. Among the innovative solutions identified at the Forum are a rule-of-law approach to debt restructuring, with the United Nations playing a facilitating role; considering social protection in least developed countries as an investment rather than a cost; and an enhanced focus on preparing students, especially girls, from least developed countries for the future of work, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

10.23 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.2).

Table 10.2  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
–	–	Policymakers from more than 20 least developed countries indicated they would use the presented research results on designing and implementing future policies

### Planned results for 2023

**Result 1: a new global framework to boost sustainable development progress in those countries that are lagging the most behind**

**Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

- 10.24 The subprogramme's work contributed to the negotiations of the action-oriented Doha Programme of Action that was approved and reflects the views of all stakeholders, which met the planned target.
- 10.25 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.3).

Table 10.3  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Member States adopt General Assembly resolution <a href="#">74/232</a> , in which they call for the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	Multi-stakeholder partners participated in the preparatory meetings for the Conference	The preparatory committee approved the draft Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries and decided to recommend it to the Conference for adoption	Member States implement effective partnerships with various stakeholders	Member States strengthen partnerships with various stakeholders to eradicate poverty, in line with the priorities of the Doha Programme of Action

## Result 2: accelerated progress towards sustainable development through the implementation of a new programme of action for least developed countries

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 10.26 The subprogramme's work contributed to the mobilization of United Nations agencies and resident coordinators in least developed countries in support of the preparatory process for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, analysing challenges and making commitments for enhanced support to least developed countries, including designing the Doha Programme of Action, which met the planned target.
- 10.27 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.4).

Table 10.4

### Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Inter-agency meetings held to mobilize United Nations agencies to support implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the preparations of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	Report on United Nations support to least developed countries published, recommending mainstreaming and prioritization of such support	United Nations agencies and resident coordinators in least developed countries mobilized in support of the preparatory process for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	Ten least developed countries mainstreaming the new programme of action into their development plans with support from the United Nations system	Ten additional least developed countries mainstreaming the new programme of action into their development plans with support from the United Nations system

## Result 3: private sector plays an enhanced role in addressing vulnerabilities of least developed countries

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 10.28 Private investment in least developed countries has been hampered by the effects of COVID-19, leading to the closure of many micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially those led by women, and declining foreign direct investment (FDI). In collaboration with other United Nations entities, the subprogramme provided related analysis, which fed into the Doha Programme of Action and contributed, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, to the formulation of a capacity-building project for investment promotion agencies. The pilot phase of implementation commenced in 2021 with the provision of tailored capacity-building activities, taking into account the diverse needs of the various least developed countries with respect to FDI attraction and facilitation, including through sharing know-how and best practices.

### *Lessons learned and planned change*

- 10.29 The lesson for the subprogramme was to leverage existing partnerships with private sector entities to strengthen private sector engagement in support of the least developed countries. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will collaborate on conducting online surveys on the investment climates of least developed countries and involve the private sector more effectively in the preparations for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. This will culminate in the Private Sector Forum, to be held in Doha in 2023. The subprogramme will organize dedicated meetings involving private sector representatives and government representatives from least developed countries and development partners to discuss obstacles to contributions of the private

sector towards gender-sensitive sustainable development in least developed countries and business opportunities in least developed countries for the private sector, including for women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with the aim of launching partnerships related to the objectives of the Doha Programme of Action at the Forum.

10.30 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.5).

Table 10.5  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Private sector actors involved in selected meetings	Private sector actors involved in selected meetings	Investment promotion agencies strengthen capacity on FDI attraction and facilitation	Private sector actors engage in dialogue and consider commitments in support of the least developed countries in preparation of a Private Sector Forum at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	Five partnerships related to the objectives of the Doha Programme of Action launched at the Private Sector Forum in areas such as leveraging innovation and creating productive employment and decent work

## Deliverables

10.31 Table 10.6 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 10.6  
Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, including on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020	1	2	1	3
2. Official documents for the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	3	7	–	–
3. Official documents for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	6	2	6	4
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>
4. Meetings of the General Assembly	13	13	13	13
5. Meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries and the high-level political forum on sustainable development	10	11	10	10
6. Regional review meetings on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries	2	9	–	–
7. Annual ministerial meetings of the least developed countries and related consultations	5	5	5	5

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<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
8. Meetings of ad hoc expert groups on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and related priority topics thereof	3	7	3	3
9. Meetings of the Group of Least Developed Countries	10	10	10	10
10. Meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	10	16	–	–
11. Meetings of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	18	–	18	18
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
12. Workshops for national focal points of least developed countries, ministerial meeting and round-table discussions on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries	4	5	6	6
13. Forums for main stakeholders on partnerships for least developed countries	2	2	2	2
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
14. On the state of the least developed countries	1	1	1	1
15. On the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development	3	3	–	–
16. On progress towards the graduation of the least developed countries	–	–	1	1
17. On the implementation of specific areas of the new programme of action for the least developed countries	–	–	4	4
18. On key issues relating to the least developed countries	4	6	8	8
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> substantive support to the group of 46 least developed countries; briefing of all Member States on the work of the Office of the High Representative and of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries; advice on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the 46 least developed countries; substantive advice for the meetings of the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; support to the work of the Broadband Commission and advocacy for support towards the 46 least developed countries.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> promotional materials on the global outreach campaign raising awareness of and accountability of Member States and other stakeholders towards the Programme of Action arising from the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; and communications campaigns on upcoming graduations, and advocacy for enhanced smooth transition measures.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and press conferences on issues relating to the least developed countries; editorial opinions (op-eds) ensuring that least developed countries issues are at the forefront of international development discourse; information campaign (including videos, infographics and other social media material) on progress achieved in the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> information on the outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries for all Member States and other relevant stakeholders.				

## Subprogramme 2 Landlocked developing countries

### Objective

- 10.32 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen policies and capacities to improve the connectivity of landlocked developing countries, with the aim of supporting their sustainable development, reduce their trade transaction costs, increase their regional cooperation and increase their regional, subregional and global trade and strengthen their institutions and social and environmental protection; and to increase structural transformation in landlocked developing countries for sustainable development.

## Strategy

10.33 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

- (a) Continue to provide support to Member States in their intergovernmental processes related to landlocked developing countries, in line with the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and regional programmes, including Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.
- (b) Lead the preparations of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries;
- (c) Undertake analytical work related to the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action and on the impact of COVID-19 on landlocked developing countries and the policies and support required for sustainable recovery, the outcome of which will inform both the backstopping support, as well as capacity-building and advocacy activities;
- (d) Organize capacity-building activities, and facilitate the exchange of experiences and peer learning among landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the priorities for action of the Vienna Programme of Action;
- (e) Continue its advocacy activities for enhanced international support towards the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and of the Political Declaration of its High-level Midterm Review and of the 2030 Agenda;
- (f) Coordinate and monitor the effective implementation of the road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

10.34 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Increased support towards landlocked developing countries from the international community, including the United Nations system, to address the needs and challenges arising from landlockedness;
- (b) Increased adoption and implementation by landlocked developing countries of initiatives to enhance transit, connectivity and trade facilitation;
- (c) Enhanced capacity of landlocked developing countries to devise and formulate policies that promote diversification, integration into global value chains and structural economic transformation;
- (d) Enhanced capacity of landlocked developing countries to formulate policies that foster recovery and build their resilience post COVID-19.

## Programme performance in 2021

### **Strengthened capacity of government officials from landlocked developing countries and transit countries to promote transport connectivity and the development of bankable transport infrastructure projects**

10.35 Strengthened policies and capacities to improve the connectivity of landlocked developing countries and develop bankable transport infrastructure projects are critical for reducing their trade transaction costs and increasing their regional cooperation and trade. The subprogramme, working with regional commissions and other partners, provided a series of virtual training workshops for policymakers from 25 landlocked developing countries and 13 transit countries to strengthen their capacity to develop policies for enhanced transport connectivity and bankable transport infrastructure projects, including developing supportive regulatory frameworks and enabling environments to attract financing and encourage the use of public-private-partnerships. The subprogramme prepared three sets of training modules that helped to successfully create awareness and build the capacity of more than 200 government officials from landlocked developing countries and transit countries on how to further improve transport connectivity, including both hard and soft infrastructure, and in a sustainable manner. The training contributed to enhancing the ability of government officials from landlocked developing countries and transit countries to apply the knowledge acquired to their day-

to-day work. In the evaluations conducted, participants pledged that they had gained additional knowledge and skills on ways to improve transport connectivity, which they, in turn, would use in their workplace. However, all participants expressed that they would have preferred in-person training, given that it would have provided a more impactful learning experience, and indicated their desire for future in-person training once the COVID-19 pandemic was over.

10.36 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.7).

Table 10.7  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)
—	Member States indicate an interest in capacity-building on policies that promote transport connectivity and on the development of bankable infrastructure projects	202 government officials from landlocked developing countries and transit countries gained access to relevant knowledge on policies to promote transport connectivity and on the development of bankable transport infrastructure projects

## Planned results for 2023

### Result 1: enhanced transit to facilitate greater trade potential for landlocked developing countries

#### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 10.37 The subprogramme's work contributed to landlocked developing countries adopting three new initiatives to improve transit, trade facilitation and structural transformation, including the establishment of a one-stop border post, the development of a trade information portal and the enhancements to transit railway infrastructure, which met the planned target.
- 10.38 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.8).

Table 10.8  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Member States ratify the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation and call upon all members that have not yet done so to ratify the Agreement	Member States adopt General Assembly resolution <a href="#">75/233</a>  Adoption of three tangible initiatives on transit, trade facilitation and structural economic transformation that are being implemented by landlocked developing countries and transit countries	Landlocked developing country Member States adopted three new initiatives to improve transit, trade facilitation and structural economic transformation	Increased number of landlocked developing country and transit country Member States that report increased implementation of trade facilitation measures under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation	Twenty-five landlocked developing countries designate capital-based national focal points for the Vienna Programme of Action to promote national-level implementation and follow-up of the Vienna Programme of Action, including trade facilitation

## Result 2: better coordinated United Nations support to landlocked developing countries

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 10.39 The subprogramme's work contributed to better coordinated United Nations support to landlocked developing countries and 10 megaprojects in renewable sources of energy, with an investment of \$2.5 billion, and 18 transport infrastructure projects, which exceeded the planned target of Member States implementing at least 2 new initiatives included in the road map.
- 10.40 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.9).

Table 10.9  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Member States call upon the United Nations system to provide support to accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (General Assembly resolution 74/15)	Member States request the Secretary-General to prepare a road map on coordinated United Nations support to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. The road map was coordinated, prepared and adopted in the same year	Member States implemented 10 megaprojects in renewable sources of energy and 18 transport infrastructure projects	Member States implement at least five new initiatives contained in the road map, including on transit, transport, trade facilitation, energy and ICT development, and structural economic transformation	Member States implement eight new initiatives contained in the road map, including on transit, transport, energy and ICT development, and structural economic transformation

Abbreviation: ICT, information and communications technology.

## Result 3: strengthened capacities of landlocked developing countries to achieve climate action and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 10.41 The Midterm Review on the Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developed Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, held in 2019, indicated that progress made by landlocked developing countries was insufficient to achieve the Vienna Programme of Action targets and Sustainable Development Goals. COVID-19 has exacerbated existing challenges related to the geography of landlocked countries. Exports and imports have been constrained by a lack of smooth functioning of borders, lockdowns, trade restrictions, disruptions in global supply chains and commodity price shocks. At the same time, there is evidence that the impact of climate change is exacerbating heat waves, flooding, droughts and desertification, landslides and other disasters in landlocked developing countries. To support landlocked developing countries, the subprogramme undertook research and organized thematic events on enhancing diversification, structural transformation, trade facilitation and integration into global value chains, as well as on accelerating climate change adaptation and mitigation. The subprogramme also assisted Member States in organizing two ministerial meetings on COVID-19 recovery and a meeting with the resident coordinators to mobilize their support for national-level implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

### Lessons learned and planned change

- 10.42 The lesson for the subprogramme was that, with regard to preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, it is particularly important that the subprogramme provide normative support to analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on recovery and



sustainable development and emerging challenges linked to climate change. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will incorporate analysis of the twin challenges of climate change and COVID-19 and suggest recommendations on action that will feed into the preparations for the Conference.

10.43 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.10).

Table 10.10  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
—	—	The General Assembly adopted resolution 76/217, in which it called for a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which would comprehensively review the Vienna Programme of Action	Landlocked developing countries build their common position on transport and transit for input to the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	Member States identify and agree on regional focused action and commitments to support the landlocked developing countries in achieving climate action and sustainable COVID-19 recovery

## Deliverables

10.44 Table 10.11 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 10.11  
Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Parliamentary documentation</b> (number of documents)	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Reports to the General Assembly, including on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	1	1	1	1
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>
2. Formal meetings and informal consultations of the Second Committee of the General Assembly	13	13	15	15
3. Meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council	2	2	2	2
4. Annual ministerial meetings of the landlocked developing countries and consultations on outcomes thereof, and other ministerial meetings	10	10	10	10
5. Regional review meetings on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	—	—	—	2
6. Meetings of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries	10	10	12	14
7. Expert group meetings on thematic issues (structural economic transformation, sustainable development, trade facilitation measures, COVID-19 and other relevant issues for landlocked developing countries)	—	—	2	1

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
8. On the enhancement of the analytical capacity of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries	1	1	1	1
9. On the enhancement of the role of the private sector in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, trade facilitation and structural transformation	1	1	1	1
10. On strengthening of the participation of landlocked developing countries in relevant regional and bilateral cooperation frameworks and their accession to international conventions, and corridor development	1	1	1	–
11. On coordination of the enhanced implementation of the road map for accelerated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	–	–	–	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
12. Round-table discussion on capacity-building	1	1	1	1
13. Workshop for national focal points of landlocked developing countries	–	–	1	1
14. Panel discussion on best practices and solutions to specific needs of landlocked developing countries	1	1	1	1
15. Events on capacity-building, best practices and thematic areas in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other United Nations practices, including COVID-19, energy, ICT, infrastructure, Sustainable Development Goal 14, climate change and desertification	2	2	2	2
16. Events in preparation for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries on thematic areas, including transit, trade facilitation, corridor development, connectivity, global value chains, climate change, water, desertification and road safety	–	–	–	4
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
17. On thematic issues and indicators of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2	2	2	2
18. On thematic development issues in landlocked developing countries	2	2	2	2
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> substantive support to the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries; briefings to 32 landlocked developing countries, 34 transit countries and 28 development partners on the work of the Office of the High Representative; side events promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024; substantive advice to and support for 32 United Nations country teams and other United Nations organizations to ensure synergy and coherence in the implementation and monitoring of, and follow-up to, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the 2030 Agenda at the national and regional levels; and technical support towards the preparation of national review reports on the 10-year implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries.				
<b>Databases and substantive digital materials:</b> database of indicators for landlocked developing countries.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> promotional materials on the global outreach campaign for landlocked developing countries.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and press conferences on issues relating to landlocked developing countries.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> webpages relating to landlocked developing countries.				

### **Subprogramme 3**

#### **Small island developing States**

#### **Objective**

- 10.45 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to increase sustainable economic, social and environmental resilience in small island developing States.

#### **Strategy**

- 10.46 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Advocate for the special case of small island developing States in achieving sustainable development by engaging with development partners, international financial institutions and the private sector in relevant forums;
  - (b) Mobilize increased resources for small island developing States in priority areas, including through a targeted resource mobilization strategy and by developing tailored policy tools;
  - (c) Provide more structured support through the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework for the facilitation of collaborative partnerships, especially between small island developing States and the private sector;
  - (d) Strengthen coherence and coordination at the national, regional and global levels, including by providing more structured support to the small island developing States national focal points network and increasing coordination between United Nations entities supporting those States;
  - (e) Integrate COVID-19 recovery into the work on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, facilitate the sharing of experiences between small island developing States, advocate enhanced support and increased resources in addressing the impact of COVID-19, and ensure the coherence of the support provided by the United Nations system for recovery efforts at the national, regional and global levels;
  - (g) Lead the preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.
- 10.47 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Strengthened international support measures aimed at enabling small island developing States to implement the Samoa Pathway, the Paris Agreement and other priorities of those States for sustainable development;
  - (b) Enhanced access to finance for small island developing States.

### **Programme performance in 2021**

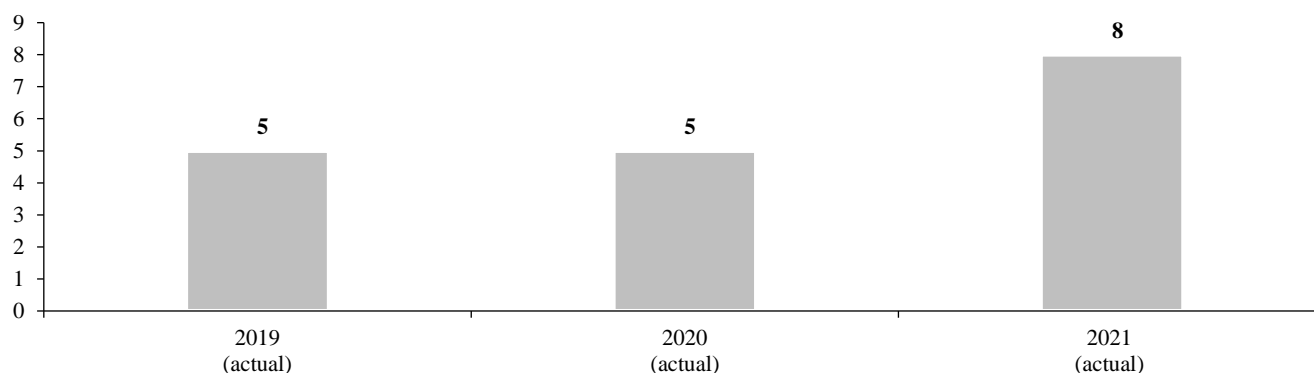
#### **Strengthened private sector engagement on oceans**

- 10.48 Recognizing the critical importance of the oceans as a cross-cutting sector for sustainable development in small island developing States and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the subprogramme organized a virtual small island developing States global business network forum and a series of webinars to promote partnerships and exchange experiences with small island developing States in the following areas: ocean energy; sustainable fisheries and use of marine natural resources; ocean conservation; sustainable shipping; and sustainable and diversified tourism. The Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework promotes South-South, North-South and triangular partnerships involving small island developing States, which further the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. Furthermore, given the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on tourism in small island developing States, a dedicated tourism working group was initiated with tourism associations from across small island developing State regions. The subprogramme's work contributed to the establishment of three partnerships with the private sector in 2021 to enable investment in renewable energy, strengthen tourism recovery and increase resilience to disasters in small island developing States.

10.49 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 10.I).

Figure 10.I

**Performance measure: number of ocean-related partnerships for sustainable development of small island developing States (cumulative)**



### Planned results for 2023

**Result 1: enhanced coordination and coherence of the United Nations system to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway**

**Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023**

- 10.50 The subprogramme's work contributed to 16 additional small island developing States that communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy, strategy or plan related to climate change, climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions, which met the planned target.
- 10.51 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.12).

Table 10.12

**Performance measure**

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
Small island developing States strongly express a need for more targeted support in the context of the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway	Adoption of General Assembly resolution <a href="#">74/297</a>	Sixteen small island developing States that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy, strategy or plan related to climate change, climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions	Small island developing States review the implementation of the multi-country office review, with a view to further enhancing tailored United Nations support, including strengthened policy support related to climate change, climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions	Small island developing States better integrate climate action into national development policies, furthering implementation of the Samoa Pathway, through the implementation of the multi-country office review

## Result 2: enhanced access to finance for small island developing States through the strengthening and development of policy tools

### Programme performance in 2021 and target for 2023

- 10.52 The subprogramme's work contributed to the General Assembly considering the recommendations on a multidimensional vulnerability index provided by the Secretary-General in his report on the implementation of resolution [75/215](#), which met the planned target.
- 10.53 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2023 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.13).

Table 10.13

#### Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
In the political declaration of the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, the need to devise methodologies to better account for the complex and diverse realities of small island developing States was recognized	The General Assembly adopted resolution <a href="#">75/215</a> , in which it called upon the Secretary-General to provide recommendations on the development of a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use	The General Assembly adopted resolution <a href="#">76/203</a> , in which it welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendations on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use	Strengthened international support measures to enable small island developing States to better withstand extreme shocks and build sustainable economic, social and environmental resilience	Increased awareness and recognition of the need for the multidimensional vulnerability index, which can inform the delivery of targeted development finance

## Result 3: data leveraged for a new global framework for the sustainable development of small island developing States

### Proposed programme plan for 2023

- 10.54 Small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development and have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges, COVID-19 and other external economic and financial shocks. These countries need increased global commitments and additional solutions for their current and emerging challenges, so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda.
- 10.55 The subprogramme supported small island developing States in their advocacy efforts by organizing high-level and expert meetings in cooperation with the Alliance of Small Island States and other partners. During these events, the subprogramme leveraged the convening power of the High Representative to bring together key stakeholders in making the case for a new global framework, which would recognize current and emerging challenges and strengthen international support measures to enable these countries to build economic, social and environmental resilience.

#### *Lessons learned and planned change*

- 10.56 The lesson for the subprogramme was that advocacy activities are most impactful when complemented by up-to-date data and evidence. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will increase its focus on data analysis and knowledge products that provide updated information on the

vulnerabilities of small island developing States and include concrete recommendations on support needed by these countries. This is expected to contribute to the evidence-based foundation for a new global framework for small island developing States, enabling those States to determine the action and commitments needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

- 10.57 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.14).

Table 10.14  
Performance measure

2019 (actual)	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (planned)	2023 (planned)
The General Assembly adopted the political declaration of the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, in which it urged further action to advance the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States	The General Assembly adopted resolution <a href="#">75/215</a> , in which it called for immediate and substantial actions to facilitate the COVID-19 responses by small island developing States, while preserving their sustainable development achievements and commitments, and reinforce their resilience in line with the Samoa Pathway and the political declaration of the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway	The General Assembly adopted resolution <a href="#">76/203</a> , in which it called for the convening in 2024 of a fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which would be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to meet the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals	Small island developing States focus on enhanced reporting on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway to serve as basis for an evidence-based framework for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States	Small island developing States use timely data and analysis on vulnerabilities to determine the global actions and commitments needed to implement the 2030 Agenda

## Deliverables

- 10.58 Table 10.15 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 10.15  
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2021–2023, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2021 planned	2021 actual	2022 planned	2023 planned
<b>A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies</b>				
<b>Substantive services for meetings</b> (number of three-hour meetings)	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>
1. Meetings and consultations of the Second Committee of the General Assembly	3	3	3	3
2. Meetings and consultations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council	2	2	2	2
3. Regional and interregional review meetings on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway	—	—	—	8
4. Meetings of the group of small island developing States	2	2	2	2
5. Expert group meetings on mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and issues relating to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhancing the coherence of issues relating to small island developing States in United Nations processes	2	2	2	2

**Section 10 Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States**

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2021 planned</i>	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>
<b>B. Generation and transfer of knowledge</b>				
<b>Field and technical cooperation projects</b> (number of projects)	<b>1</b>	–	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
6. On strengthening the capacity of small island developing States to attract climate finance from the private sector	1	–	1	1
<b>Seminars, workshops and training events</b> (number of days)	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
7. Seminars on the support from development partners to small island developing States for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the small island developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	2	8	2	2
8. Seminars in support of the Alliance of Small Island States related to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2	1	2	2
9. Seminars with the small island developing States national focal points on the coordination of efforts to achieve and monitor the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda	4	4	4	4
10. Seminars on how the United Nations system and other international intergovernmental institutions, including regional intergovernmental organizations of which the small island developing States are members, can strengthen collaboration through joint efforts and activities	3	2	3	3
11. Seminars on private sector involvement in supporting implementation of the Samoa Pathway	1	1	2	2
12. Seminars on the access of small island developing States to climate change-related finance for development objectives	2	2	2	2
<b>Publications</b> (number of publications)	–	–	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
13. On mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and issues relating to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhancing the coherence of issues relating to small island developing States in United Nations processes	–	–	1	1
<b>Technical materials</b> (number of materials)	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
14. On implementing the Samoa Pathway, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	2	1	2	2
15. On international support provided to small island developing States for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway	2	1	2	2
16. On matters relating to the financing, implementation and monitoring of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda in small island developing States	2	1	2	2
17. On issues relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in small island developing States	2	2	2	2
18. On mainstreaming the Samoa Pathway and issues relating to small island developing States in the work of the United Nations system and enhancing the coherence of issues relating to small island developing States in United Nations processes	2	2	2	2
<b>C. Substantive deliverables</b>				
<b>Consultation, advice and advocacy:</b> substantive events to provide support to 38 small island developing States and 3 regional and 5 global entities; briefings to 38 Member States on the work of the Office; and advocacy in appropriate forums for the special case of small island developing States in achieving sustainable development.				
<b>D. Communication deliverables</b>				
<b>Outreach programmes, special events and information materials:</b> campaigns on matters relating to small island developing States and sustainable development, including advocacy materials for the special case of small island developing States in achieving sustainable development.				
<b>External and media relations:</b> press releases and press appearances on issues relating to small island developing States, as well as ongoing engagement with journalists in small island developing States on relevant United Nations processes and activities.				
<b>Digital platforms and multimedia content:</b> web pages, including information on the preparatory processes for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.				

## B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2023

### Overview

10.59 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 10.16 to 10.18.

Table 10.16

#### Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Post	5 778.4	6 175.0	152.5	—	—	152.5	2.5	6 327.5
Other staff costs	138.2	336.9	—	—	—	—	—	336.9
Hospitality	—	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	0.5
Consultants	113.6	47.7	—	—	—	—	—	47.7
Experts	67.1	313.0	—	—	—	—	—	313.0
Travel of staff	85.0	209.1	—	—	—	—	—	209.1
Contractual services	208.4	172.3	—	—	—	—	—	172.3
General operating expenses	60.3	39.9	—	—	—	—	—	39.9
Supplies and materials	1.7	6.4	—	—	—	—	—	6.4
Furniture and equipment	25.7	19.4	(2.8)	—	—	(2.8)	(14.4)	16.6
Grants and contributions	9.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 488.3</b>	<b>7 320.2</b>	<b>149.7</b>	<b>—</b>		<b>149.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7 469.9</b>

Table 10.17

#### Overall: proposed posts and post changes for 2023

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2022	33	1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 8 P-5, 8 P-4, 6 P-3, 2 P-2, 6 GS (OL)
Proposed for 2023	33	1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 8 P-5, 8 P-4, 6 P-3, 2 P-2, 6 GS (OL)

*Note:* The following abbreviations are used in tables and figures: GS (OL), General Service (Other level); USG, Under-Secretary-General.



Table 10.18

**Overall: proposed posts by category and grade**

(Number of posts)

Category and grade	2022 approved	Changes				2023 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	
Professional and higher						
USG	1	—	—	—	—	1
D-2	1	—	—	—	—	1
D-1	1	—	—	—	—	1
P-5	8	—	—	—	—	8
P-4	8	—	—	—	—	8
P-3	6	—	—	—	—	6
P-2/1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Subtotal	27	—	—	—	—	27
General Service and related						
GS (OL)	6	—	—	—	—	6
Subtotal	6	—	—	—	—	6
Total	33	—	—	—	—	33

10.60 Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in tables 10.19 to 10.21 and figure 10.II.

10.61 As reflected in tables 10.19 (1) and 10.20, the overall resources proposed for 2023 amount to \$7,469,900 before recosting, reflecting a net increase of \$149,700 (or 2.0 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2022. Resource changes result from technical adjustments. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 10.19

**Overall: evolution of financial resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes				2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total Percentage	
A. Executive direction and management	1 717.4	1 502.1	66.2	—	—	66.2 4.4	1 568.3
B. Programme of work							
1. Least developed countries	3 442.7	3 695.9	—	—	—	— —	3 695.9
2. Landlocked developing countries	648.7	1 157.0	—	—	—	— —	1 157.0
3. Small island developing States	679.5	965.2	83.5	—	—	83.5 8.7	1 048.7
<b>Subtotal, B</b>	<b>4 770.9</b>	<b>5 818.0</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>83.5 1.4</b>	<b>5 901.6</b>
<b>Subtotal, 1</b>	<b>6 488.3</b>	<b>7 320.2</b>	<b>149.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>149.7 2.0</b>	<b>7 469.9</b>

**(2) Extrabudgetary**

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2021 expenditure</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
A. Executive direction and management	—	—	—	—	—
B. Programme of work					
1. Least developed countries	1 605.8	1 218.1	395.6	32.5	1 613.7
2. Landlocked developing countries	136.1	351.8	13.6	3.9	365.4
3. Small island developing States	38.3	676.8	(279.8)	(41.3)	397.0
<b>Subtotal, B</b>	<b>1 780.2</b>	<b>2 246.7</b>	<b>129.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>2 376.1</b>
<b>Subtotal, 2</b>	<b>1 780.2</b>	<b>2 246.7</b>	<b>129.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>2 376.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 268.5</b>	<b>9 566.9</b>	<b>279.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>9 846.0</b>

Table 10.20

**Overall: proposed posts for 2023 by source of funding, component and subprogramme**

(Number of posts)

*Regular budget*

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2022 approved</i>	<i>Changes</i>				<i>2023 proposed</i>
		<i>Technical adjustments</i>	<i>New/expanded mandates</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	
A. Executive direction and management	7	—	—	—	—	7
B. Programme of work						
1. Least developed countries	17	—	—	—	—	17
2. Landlocked developing countries	5	—	—	—	—	5
3. Small island developing States	4	—	—	—	—	4
<b>Subtotal, B</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>33</b>

Table 10.21

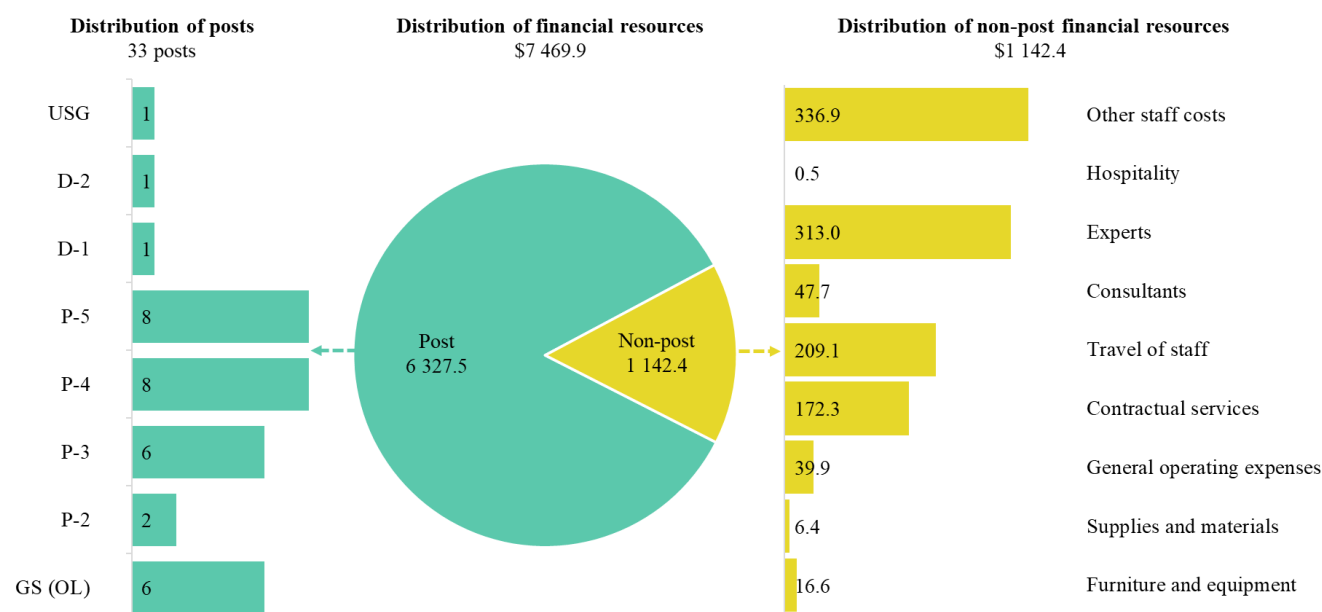
**Overall: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	5 778.3	6 175.0	152.5	—	—	152.5	2.5	6 327.5
Non-post	710.0	1 145.2	(2.8)	—	—	(2.8)	(0.2)	1 142.4
Total	6 488.3	7 320.2	149.7	—	—	149.7	2.0	7 469.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		27	—	—	—	—	—	27
General Service and related		6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total		33	—	—	—	—	—	33

Figure 10.II  
Distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



## Explanation of variances by factor, component and subprogramme

### Overall resource changes

#### Technical adjustments

10.62 As reflected in table 10.19 (1), resource changes reflect a net increase of \$149,700, as follows:

- Executive direction and management.** The net increase of \$66,200 reflects the annual provision for one new post of Associate Data Analyst (P-2) established in 2022 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/245](#) (\$69,000), which was subject to a 50 per cent vacancy rate in accordance with the established practice for new posts, offset in part by the removal of a non-recurrent provision for furniture and equipment (\$2,800) related to this post and the new post established in 2022 under subprogramme 3 (see para. 10.62 (b) below);
- Subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.** The increase of \$83,500 reflects the annual provision for one new post of Programme Management Officer (P-3) established in 2022 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/245](#), which was subject to a 50 per cent vacancy rate in accordance with the established practice for new posts.

### Extrabudgetary resources

10.63 As reflected in table 10.19 (2), the Office of the High Representative expects to continue to receive cash contributions, which would complement regular budget resources. In 2023, extrabudgetary resources are estimated at \$2,376,100 and would be used mainly to carry out activities related to the preparations for and follow-up on the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. Extrabudgetary resources represent 24.1 per cent of the total resources for this section. The expected increase of \$129,400 compared with the estimate for 2022 is due primarily to the follow-up activities related to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

- 10.64 The extrabudgetary resources under this section are subject to the oversight of the Office of the High Representative, which has delegated authority from the Secretary-General.

### **Executive direction and management**

- 10.65 The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative is responsible for the overall leadership and direction of the Office in the implementation of its mandates and approved programme of work. The High Representative engages in high-level consultations with Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral and regional financial institutions, the private sector, and civil society groups and academia, and supports the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in their reviews and assessments of progress achieved in the implementation of the programmes of action for the three groups of countries and the 2030 Agenda, as it relates to these countries.
- 10.66 The Office of the High Representative advises the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative on issues of policy and management; acts as a focal point for information on all aspects of the work of the Office and ensures that such information is disseminated internally and projected externally, as appropriate; and consults, negotiates and coordinates with other departments, offices, funds and programmes, as well as with non-United Nations entities, on matters of common concern. The Office is headed by a Director (D-2), who is responsible for the overall coordination and strategic management of the Office and who acts as a deputy to the High Representative.
- 10.67 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and, in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution [72/219](#), the Office has started the implementation of its guide entitled “Things to Know, Things to Do – Reducing Environmental Impacts in the Workplace”, which is the Office’s strategic document on environmental sustainability. The guide provides details of daily environmentally sound steps to reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions and move toward achieving the targets of the United Nations Secretariat climate action plan 2020–2030. These steps include promoting the use of reusable bags and water and coffee bottles, commuting by bicycle when possible, and using hand driers instead of paper towels. A baseline survey was administered in 2020 to assess existing practices among staff members in the Office and a follow-up survey will take place when return to the premises reaches a more advanced state.
- 10.68 Information on compliance with the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 10.22. The rate of compliance with the advance booking policy decreased in 2021 compared with 2020 but is higher than in 2019. For the Office, international travel resumed in the late summer of 2021, with major preparatory meetings for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and expert group meetings on the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. Continued uncertainties pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, the Office was able to ensure the effective participation of many least developed country and landlocked developing country government representatives in those meetings. Delays in nominations and putting together the documentation required for travel approval, including new COVID-19-related documents, were a major cause of the lower rate of compliance with the policy on the advance purchase of air tickets, over which the Office has little control. For travel of staff, delays in receiving the programmes of and background documents for events to which the Office is invited had an impact on the timely submission. Furthermore, the recent COVID-19 Omicron variant led to the cancellation of events and related travel on very short notice.
- 10.69 Going forward, the Office will commit itself to striving to achieve a better level of compliance with the policy on the advance booking of air travel. It will continue to raise awareness among staff and managers of the need to comply with the policy, including through quarterly travel plans and regular monitoring of progress. With regard to partners, the Office will engage with both meeting organizers and participants sponsored by the Office with a view to improving the timeliness of submission of their documentation. The Office will also continue to work closely with the Executive Office to streamline the requirements for the issuance of travel authorizations, within the existing rules and regulations guiding official travel.

Table 10.22  
**Compliance rate**  
(Percentage)

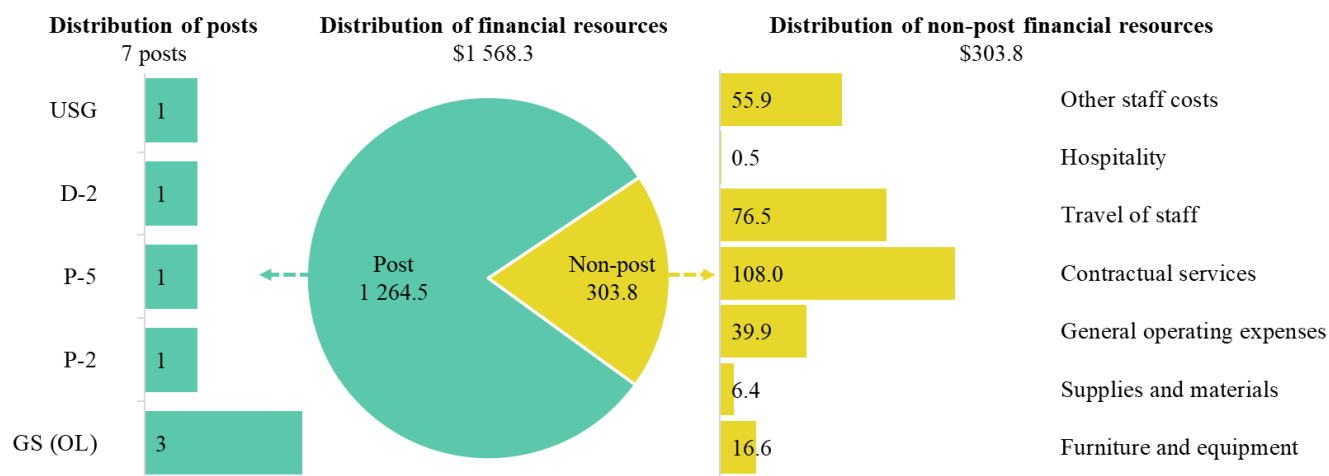
	<i>Actual 2019</i>	<i>Actual 2020</i>	<i>Actual 2021</i>	<i>Planned 2022</i>	<i>Planned 2023</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	100	85	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	43	84	47	100	100

10.70 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$7,469,900 and reflect an increase of \$149,700 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 10.62 above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 10.23 and figure 10.III.

Table 10.23  
**Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources**  
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 468.6	1 195.5	69.0	—	—	69.0	5.8	1 264.5
Non-post	248.8	306.6	(2.8)	—	—	(2.8)	0.9	303.8
Total	1 717.4	1 502.1	66.2	—	—	66.2	4.4	1 568.3
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
General Service and related		3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total		7	—	—	—	—	—	7

Figure 10.III  
**Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**  
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



## Programme of work

### Subprogramme 1 Least developed countries

- 10.71 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$3,695,900 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2022. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 10.24 and figure 10.IV.

Table 10.24

#### Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

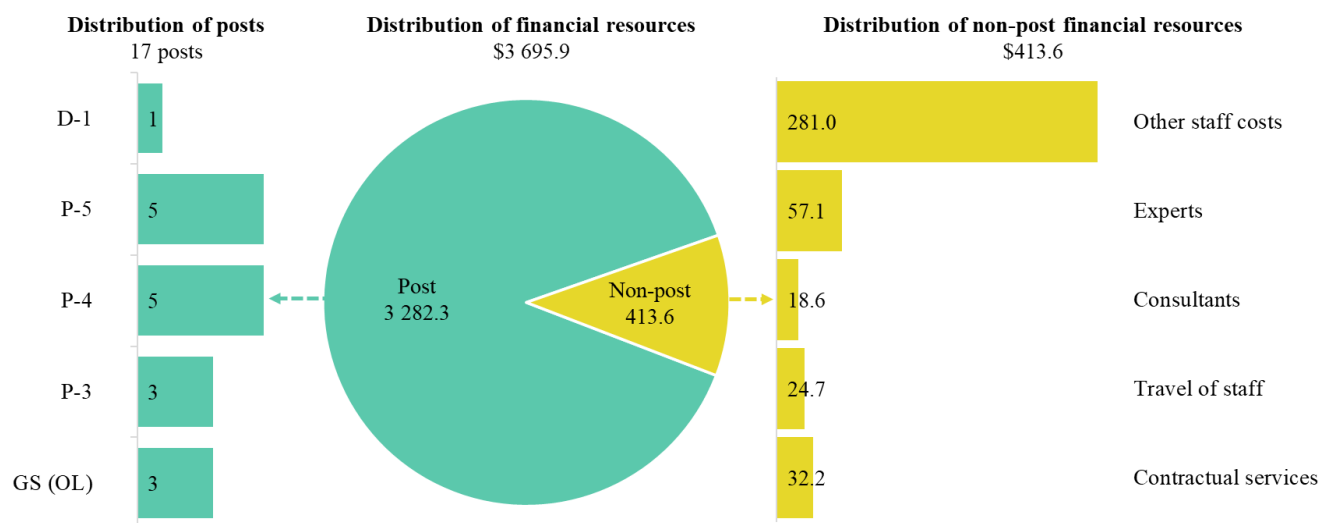
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Changes					2023 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 291.3	3 282.3	—	—	—	—	—	3 282.3
Non-post	151.4	413.6	—	—	—	—	—	413.6
Total	3 442.7	3 695.9	—	—	—	—	—	3 695.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	—	—	—	—	—	14
General Service and related		3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Total		17	—	—	—	—	—	17

Figure 10.IV

#### Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



#### Extrabudgetary resources

- 10.72 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$1,613,700 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would enable representatives of least developed countries to attend the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and follow-up

meetings pertaining to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. The expected increase of \$395,500 is due mainly to activities and increased support for least developed countries planned in the immediate follow up to the Conference.

## Subprogramme 2 Landlocked developing countries

- 10.73 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$1,157,000 and reflect no change in the resource level compared with the appropriation for 2022. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 10.25 and figure 10.V.

Table 10.25

### Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

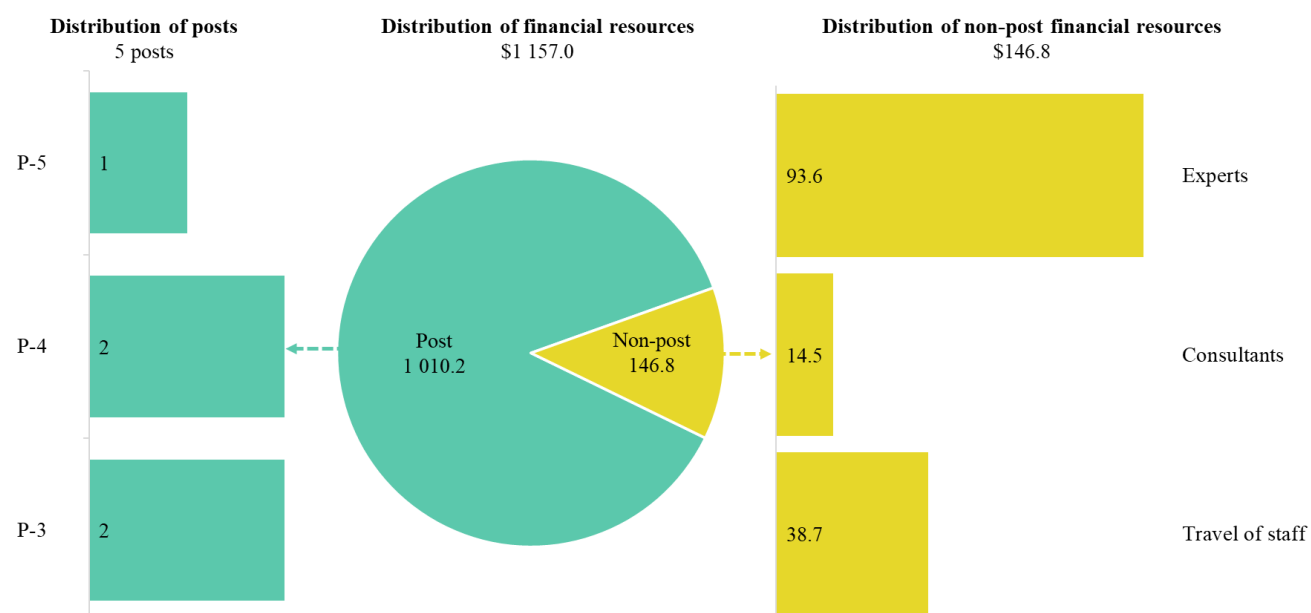
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	552.1	1 010.2	—	—	—	—	—	1 010.2
Non-post	96.5	146.8	—	—	—	—	—	146.8
Total	648.6	1 157.0	—	—	—	—	—	1 157.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		5	—	—	—	—	—	5
General Service and related		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		5	—	—	—	—	—	5

Figure 10.V

### Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



### Extrabudgetary resources

- 10.74 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$365,400 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would enable representatives of landlocked developing countries and staff to take part in activities pertaining to the preparatory process of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. The expected increase of \$13,600 is due mainly to the preparations for the Conference.

### Subprogramme 3 Small island developing States

- 10.75 The proposed regular budget resources for 2023 amount to \$1,048,700 and reflect an increase of \$83,500 compared with the appropriation for 2022. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 10.62 above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2023 are reflected in table 10.26 and figure 10.VI.

Table 10.26  
**Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources**

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

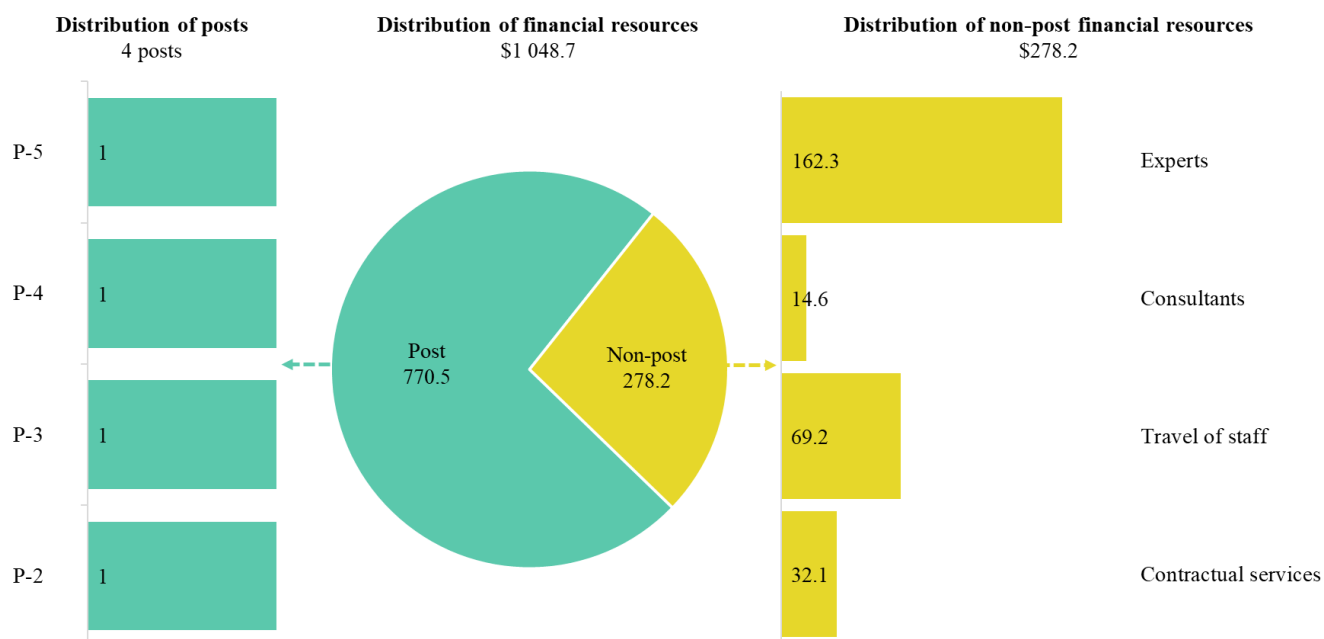
	Changes							2023 estimate (before recosting)
	2021 expenditure	2022 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	466.3	687.0	83.5	—	—	—	12.2	770.5
Non-post	213.2	278.2	—	—	—	—	—	278.2
Total	679.5	965.2	83.5	—	—	—	—	1 048.7
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
General Service and related		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		4	—	—	—	—	—	4



Figure 10.VI

**Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2023 (before recosting)**

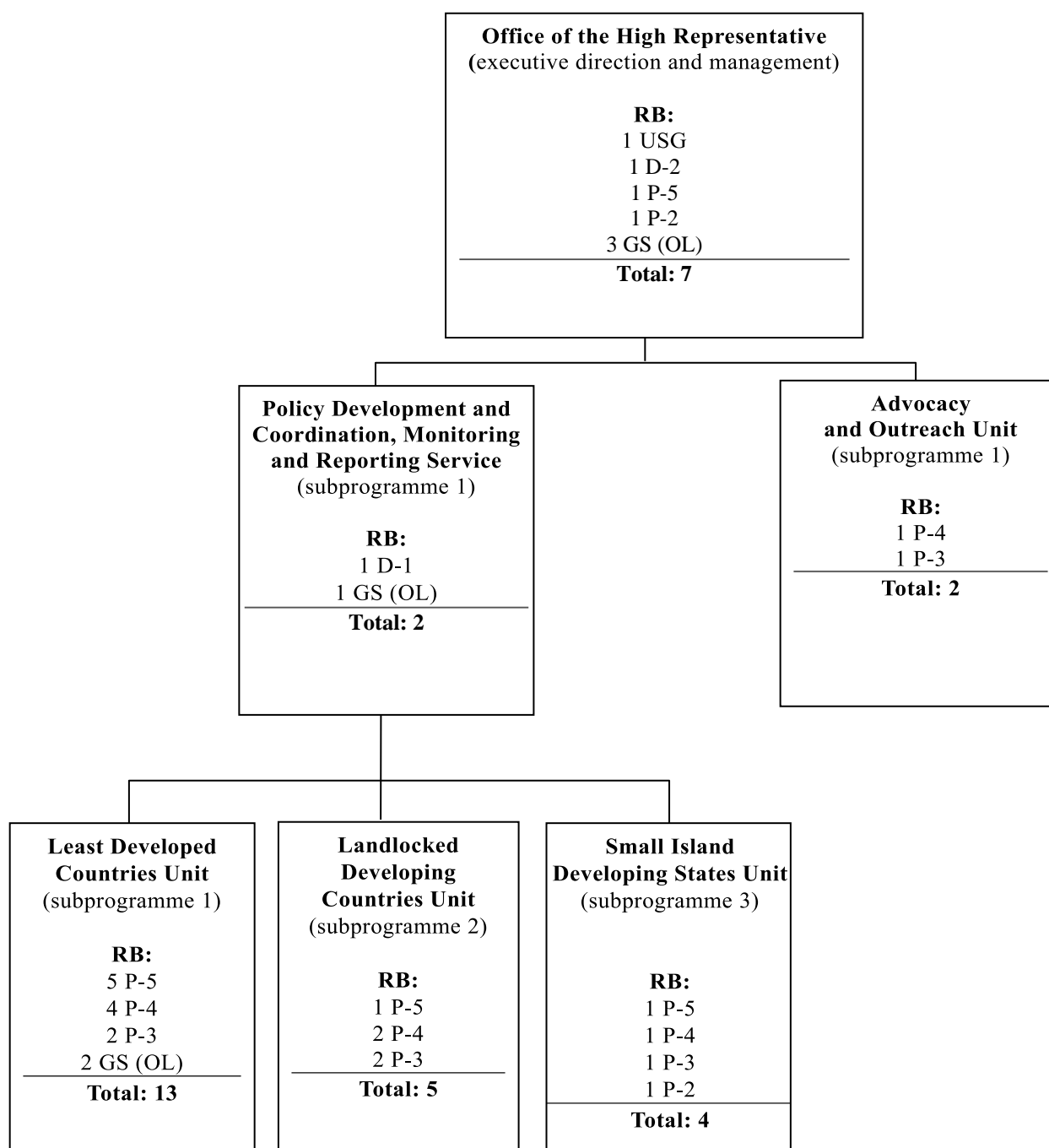
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


**Extrabudgetary resources**

- 10.76 Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at \$397,000 and would provide for non-post resources. The resources would provide for activities and the development of knowledge products to support representatives of small island developing States in preparation for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The expected decrease of \$279,800 is due mainly to the completion of activities in preparation for the Conference in 2022, including the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network and the United Nations Ocean Conference.

## Annex I

## Organizational structure and post distribution for 2023



*Abbreviations:* USG, Under-Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); RB, regular budget.

## Annex II

### Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of advisory and oversight bodies

*Brief description of the recommendation*

*Action taken to implement the recommendation*

#### **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

[A/76/7](#)

The Advisory Committee trusts that information on all sources of funding and the cooperation among all relevant entities towards achieving the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States will be provided (para. IV.38).

The Office of the High Representative cooperates with a large number of entities to achieve the objectives established in the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, both within the United Nations system and with partners outside the United Nations system, including private sector partners, other international organizations, international financial institutions and civil society organizations, which all contribute through their funding to the implementation of these programmes.

Beyond the Office, a number of entities within the United Nations Secretariat support the implementation of the programmes of action for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through dedicated work programmes.

The collaboration and coordination of the Office and the United Nations development system entities and other multilateral international organizations take place under the umbrella of four well-established mechanisms with very broad memberships: the Inter-agency Consultative Group for Least Developed countries, the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, the Inter-agency Consultative Group for Landlocked Developing Countries and the Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States (jointly chaired by the Office and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs). With regard to specific programmes and partnerships with various United Nations entities, the Office engages in wide-ranging cooperation on various thematic areas. For example, it collaborated with the International Telecommunication Union to prepare a joint report on digital connectivity in least developed countries, to accelerate progress towards universal and affordable connectivity.

*Brief description of the recommendation*

*Action taken to implement the recommendation*

Given that all the programmes of action have a strong focus on multi-stakeholder implementation, a large number of entities outside the United Nations system contribute to achieving their objectives. These include other international organizations and international financial institutions, private sector partners and civil society organizations and foundations. Examples of such collaboration include a partnership established with the International Road Transport Union to improve transit and advance implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action or co-organizing with Microsoft the Private Sector Forum at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

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