



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2022

Original: English

Seventy-seventh session

Agenda items 138 and 18 (b)

Proposed programme budget for 2023

**Sustainable development: 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**

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

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#)

Thirty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2023

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/77/23](#)), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#) on the 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. The Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification from the representatives of the Secretary-General, concluding with written responses dated 6 December 2022.

2. It is indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General that, under the terms of operative paragraphs 22, 24, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 37 of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), the General Assembly would:



(a) Reaffirm its call to convene in 2024, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and decide that the international meeting will be convened in the second or third quarter of 2024 for a duration of no more than five days;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States and the forthcoming fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

(c) Also decide that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

(d) Further decide that the Conference will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document;

(e) Decide to establish a preparatory committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will hold a one-day organizational session in the first half 2023 and two sessions, of no more than five days each, in the first half of 2024, and also decide that the bureau of the preparatory committee shall consist of two members from each regional group, as well as ex officio members from the host country and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, and that the Committee shall elect two Co-Chairs from among the nominated bureau members, one from a developed State and one from a developing State;

(f) Decide that the preparatory committee, during its organizational session in the first half of 2023, will adopt decisions and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly on the additional modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

(g) Agree that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

(i) Decide that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the

provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences.

II. Resource requirements

3. In his statement (A/C.5/77/23), the Secretary-General provides information on: (a) the relationship between the mandate contained in the draft resolution and the proposed programme budget for 2023 (ibid., para. 3); (b) the activities required to implement the mandate (ibid., paras. 4–7); and (c) the budgetary implications arising from the draft resolution (ibid., paras. 8–12).

4. A summary of the total additional resource requirements (\$1,477,400) for both 2023 and 2024 arising from draft resolution A/C.2/77/L.55 is provided in table 3 in the statement of the Secretary-General. It is indicated that the requirements for 2024 (\$906,900) would be reflected under the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/C.5/77/23, para. 13).

5. Table 1 in the statement contains information relating to the additional requirements for 2023 for conference services (\$66,700) for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, as follows: (a) interpretation services in all six official languages for two meetings in one day for the organizational session; and (b) documentation services for three pre-session documents with a total word count of 16,100 words, to be issued in all six official languages.

6. The Advisory Committee discussed the combined global documentation processing capacity of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (A/77/7/Add.28, para. 5). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretariat will make further efforts to optimize the use of the combined global documentation processing capacity, so as to increase absorptive capacity, whenever feasible (A/77/7/Add.28, para. 5).**

7. Table 2 in the statement contains information relating to the additional requirements for 2023 for non-conference services for the following:

(a) The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (\$142,600): for one temporary position at the P-3 level for nine months to conduct additional activities to support the Conference and its preparatory committee. A full description of the functions of the position is provided in paragraph 6 (a) to (f) of the statement;

(b) The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (\$177,600), including: (i) one temporary position at the P-3 level for nine months (A/C.5/77/23, para. 7 (a) and (b)); (ii) travel of staff, for trips to small island developing States by one staff member per trip for an advocacy campaign; and (iii) consultancy services for a digital information campaign and partnership strategy, and for campaign activation (including a digital creative partnership and collaboration with United Nations information centres).

8. Upon enquiry with regard to the proposed P-3 general temporary assistance position for nine months in 2023, the Advisory Committee was informed that, for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, its Small Island Developing States Unit under subprogramme 3 consisted of a small team of only three staff at the Professional level, while the mandates have been increasing in the past decade without the requisite increase in staff resources. The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process in 2023 and 2024, including the regional and interregional preparatory meetings, would entail a significant addition to the workload and require dedicated capacity. The Small Island Developing States Unit, with its current capacity constraints, would be considerably challenged to

provide this dedicated support while delivering on its current mandated work programme at the same time. In view of the above, the Department could not absorb the proposed P-3 general temporary assistance position within its existing capacity. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to make efforts to utilize its existing staff capacity to the extent possible and recommends that the duration of the P-3 general temporary assistance position be reduced from nine to six months for 2023 (a reduction of \$47,500).**

9. For the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, resources for the travel of staff (\$15,000) and consultancy services (\$20,000) are proposed for 2023. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed additional resources for travel of staff and consultancy related to the mounting of a global advocacy and outreach campaign for the Conference, in line with its advocacy mandate. This outreach would include digital campaigns, media engagement and social media. Stories and films from the small island developing States would build the case for the special support needed, as well as serve as the basis for the solutions proposed. **While recognizing the essential mandate for advocacy of the Office of the High Representative, the Advisory Committee encourages the Office to make efforts to absorb, to the extent possible, the additional requirements within the resources of the proposed programme budget for 2023. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$1,500) to the proposed resources for the travel of staff (\$15,000), as well as a reduction of 10 per cent (\$2,000) to the proposed resources for consultancy services (\$20,000) under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.**

10. With respect to coordination in providing support to the preparatory process of the Conference, upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the preparatory process for the Conference would be carried out jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative, with each focusing on its respective mandate. An interdepartmental team would be established to improve collaboration and avoid duplication of functions. The Committee recalls that, in its review of the proposed programme budget for 2023, it discussed the coordination on various issues between the Department, the Office and other entities (A/77/7, paras. IV.20–IV.21). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative will strengthen their coordination and collaboration to achieve more efficiency and effectiveness in providing support to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process.**

11. Concerning the provision of support to the Conference and its preparatory process within the respective mandates and available resources of the entities involved (see para. 2 (c) above), upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, through section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 76/245, the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. As the proposed funds for 2023 supported specific activities of approved mandates and there were no funds to support these additional activities, the additional resource requirements must be requested. Accordingly, the indication that activities should be undertaken within available resources in a draft resolution emanating from a Main Committee (other than the Fifth Committee) does not preclude the Secretariat from presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

12. It is indicated in the statement of the Secretary-General that no provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for 2023 for the implementation of the activities mandated in the draft resolution and that, at this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2023 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2023. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2023 ([A/C.5/77/23](#), para. 14).

III. Conclusion

13. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are contained in paragraphs 15 to 17 of the statement of the Secretary-General ([A/C.5/77/23](#)). **Subject to its recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), additional resource requirements would arise under the proposed programme budget for 2023:**

(a) **An amount of \$335,900, including section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$66,700); section 9, Economic and social affairs (\$95,100); and section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (\$174,100). The amount of \$335,900 would require an additional appropriation for 2023 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund;**

(b) **An amount of \$47,500 under section 36, Staff assessment, would also be required for an additional appropriation, to be offset by an equivalent amount of \$47,500 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**