



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 April 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Items 139 and 140 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2024

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2024

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

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Foreword	3
A. Proposed programme plan for 2024 and programme performance in 2022**	4
Overall orientation	4
Programme of work	8
Subprogramme 1. Least developed countries.....	8
Subprogramme 2. Landlocked developing countries.....	13
Subprogramme 3. Small island developing States.....	18

* [A/78/50](#).

** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information (part II) is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the Assembly.



B.	Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2024***	24
	Overview	24
	Executive direction and management.	29
	Programme of work	31
	Subprogramme 1. Least developed countries	31
	Subprogramme 2. Landlocked developing countries	33
	Subprogramme 3. Small island developing States	34
	Annexes	
I.	Organizational structure and post distribution for 2024	36
II.	Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of advisory and oversight bodies	37
III.	Summary of proposed post changes, by component and subprogramme	39

*** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements (part III) is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly.

Foreword

In 2024, 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 the international system is attuned to their needs and to finding solutions to the challenges they face. One such solution can be found in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the implementation of which, following the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in 2023, will be critical at a time of deepening inequality and crisis.

In 2024, two major compacts will be introduced among Member States on the special situations of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

The Office will lead preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, during which the United Nations development system will join forces to ensure that lessons from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic are learned and implemented by all, especially with regard to connectivity and cross-border trade.

For small island developing States, it is expected that the multidimensional vulnerability index will prove to be a crucial tool in efforts to deepen understanding of the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to direct development financing to them more effectively. In addition, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be a major opportunity to focus the minds of the international community on the next decade of action for small island nations and their peoples.

Although COVID-19 is being seen less frequently in the headlines, it remains a daily disaster for the most vulnerable Member States. Climate change also affects them disproportionately. The Office remains committed to supporting them through the tough times ahead, as they also grapple with the ongoing challenges of increasing food and energy prices and unsustainable debt levels.

(Signed) Rabab **Fatima**
Under-Secretary-General and 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 2024 and programme performance in 2022

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, 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. The Office's work is grounded in the three programmes of action, namely resolution [69/15](#), whereby the General 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 [76/258](#), whereby the Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031.
- 10.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its global follow-up and review processes, is integral and complementary to the three programmes of action. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States experienced a disproportionate social and economic fallout from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, owing in large part to limited capacities and financial resources.

Strategy and external factors for 2024

- 10.3 Following the adoption of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the central task ahead for the least developed countries and the international community is to enable its effective implementation in support of the 2030 Agenda. Mainstreaming the provisions of the Doha Programme of Action into national strategic planning of the least developed countries and the mobilization of commensurate resources and knowledge in support of the recovery of the least developed countries from the COVID-19 pandemic and their sustainable development will be prioritized.
- 10.4 In 2024, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and their development partners will embark on comprehensive reviews of the implementation of their respective programmes of action. The outcomes of these reviews will inform the next generation of global compacts that are aimed at addressing the special needs of these groups of countries.
- 10.5 In pursuit of these priorities, the Office will raise awareness, mobilize support and build consensus. It will strengthen engagement both in the most vulnerable countries, as well as in partner countries and in regional and global organizations and forums. Policy recommendations on how to overcome the specific challenges of the most vulnerable countries, for example in the areas of access to sustainable energy and broadband, will be provided on the basis of cross-cutting research carried out by the Office. Linkages will be promoted in follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda. The Office will also mobilize resources to ensure that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States have their voices heard in global deliberations. Furthermore, representatives of the most vulnerable countries will benefit from capacity-building activities, peer learning and the exchange of best practices, all on thematic areas relevant to the Goals and to building resilience to future crises.

- 10.6 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global and regional levels, the Office will convene the inter-agency consultative groups for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. These groups will enable United Nations entities and other international organizations to exchange information on their work, strengthen coordination of their activities and mount joint inter-agency activities. At the national level, the Office will cooperate with the networks of national focal points that act as an interface between the global, regional and national processes. The national focal points will 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.
- 10.7 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, the Office will work closely with resident coordinators to promote integration of the programmes of action into the United Nations strategic plans and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and to act as an interface with Member States on the ground on specific issues.
- 10.8 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2024 is based on the following planning assumptions:
- (a) The security and political situation in the 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;
 - (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.
- 10.9 The Office integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. For example, the Office will develop an updated gender equality strategy to further integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into its work, including through additional training and capacity-building. In addition, as part of its monitoring and reporting work, the Office will include sex-disaggregated data and analysis across its reports.
- 10.10 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 through the implementation of its disability inclusion strategy and action plan. This will promote disability inclusion in the Office's monitoring, reporting and advocacy work, in accordance with its mandates.
- 10.11 The Office will also enhance cooperation with the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth to foster the involvement, participation and input of young people in intergovernmental negotiations and United Nations processes.

Impact of the pandemic and lessons learned

- 10.12 The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2022 had an impact on the implementation of mandates, in particular the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had to be postponed from January 2022 to March 2023, as described in result 1 of subprogramme 1. For several other intergovernmental meetings and events, under all subprogrammes, the Office adjusted from in-person to virtual formats and, in some cases, postponed or cancelled events. The Small Island Developing States Global Business Network forum and meetings of national focal points were held in hybrid format to accommodate the participation of representatives of Member States in the face of ongoing travel restrictions.
- 10.13 In addition, in order to support Member States on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, within the overall scope of the objectives, the Office strengthened its work on analysing the vulnerabilities of the three groups of countries and providing policy recommendations on building resilience to various shocks.

- 10.14 The Office continues to mainstream lessons learned and best practices related to the adjustments to and adaptation of the programme owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of virtual platforms for advocacy upon request and when appropriate.

Legislative mandates

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

General Assembly resolutions

56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		

Subprogramme 1 Least developed countries

General Assembly resolutions

56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	74/232 ; 74/232 B; 75/227 , 76/216	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
65/280	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020	76/251	Further modalities of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
70/294	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	76/258 77/177	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2021/19	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020	2022/19	Programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2022–2031
-------------------------	--	-------------------------	--

Subprogramme 2 Landlocked developing countries

69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	74/15	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
73/243 ; 74/233 ; 75/228 ; 76/217 ; 77/246	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries		

Subprogramme 3 Small island developing States

General Assembly resolutions

59/311	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	72/279	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
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	72/307	Modalities for the high-level review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

73/228; 74/217; 75/215; 76/203; 77/245	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	74/3	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
--	---	------	---

Deliverables

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

Table 10.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	7	6	7	3
Meetings of:				
1. The Groups of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	4	3	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. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	3
5. Thematic reports of the Office on challenges facing the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including vulnerabilities to external shocks, access to sustainable energy and access to broadband services.	1	1	1	3
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials: databases, including on monitoring the delivery of the three programmes of action.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: strategic communications materials supporting global outreach campaigns and other materials supporting common agendas, especially the programmes of action and the Goals.				
External and media relations: press releases, media briefings and targeted interviews with select media.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: website of the Office, reflecting thematic priorities and events and showcasing research and analysis; websites for the conferences and preparatory processes concerning landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.				

Evaluation activities

- 10.17 An evaluation of a project entitled “Strengthening the capacity of landlocked developing countries under the Belt and Road Initiative to design and implement policies that promote transport connectivity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” was completed in 2022 and has guided the programme plan for 2024.
- 10.18 The results and lessons of the evaluation referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2024. For example, under subprogramme 2, in the evaluation report it was highlighted that there was a need for more strategic engagement by the Office with resident coordinators and regional training centres, including by creating opportunities to better contribute

to the sustainability of prioritized interventions with regard to transportation infrastructure and connectivity in landlocked developing countries. In 2024, subprogramme 2, result 3, is aimed at enhancing outreach to and partnerships with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams as well as other national-level stakeholders including national focal points. In addition, the Office will continue to make efforts to enhance closer collaboration with the regional commissions and other regional organizations in their efforts to provide technical assistance and capacity-building.

- 10.19 An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Office's support to the network of the national focal points for the least developed countries is planned for 2024.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1 Least developed countries

Objective

- 10.20 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

- 10.21 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Provide support to Member States in their intergovernmental processes related to the priorities of the least developed countries, including by supporting the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, including its deliverables, namely the establishment of an online university to support online graduate and postgraduate university-level education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, a food stockholding mechanism, an investment support centre, a resilience-building mechanism and a Sustainable Graduation Support Facility;
 - (b) Prepare research and analytical materials related to the focus areas of the Doha Programme of Action and facilitate knowledge exchange and peer learning on critical enablers to poverty eradication and structural transformation, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective;
 - (c) Strengthen its awareness-raising and advocacy work in favour of the least developed countries, in partnership with the United Nations system, parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations in focus areas of the Doha Programme of Action;
 - (d) Conduct advocacy activities to promote resource mobilization in the least developed countries, especially public and private financing, including innovative finance, for resilience-building;
 - (e) Lead the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation, organize workshops and technical support on establishing consultative mechanisms with development partners and preparing smooth transition strategies, and facilitate peer learning between graduated and graduating countries;
 - (f) Monitor sectoral policy developments of the intergovernmental processes of relevant international and regional organizations;
 - (g) Strengthen the network of national focal points of the least developed countries through annual meetings to share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action and the Goals into national development processes, as well as on their implementation and follow-up.

- 10.22 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Least developed countries accelerating progress towards achieving the Goals and achieving the focus areas of the Doha Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals;
 - (b) Graduating countries transitioning smoothly out of the least developed country category.

Programme performance in 2022

National focal points in least developed countries engage with partners to enhance broadband connectivity

- 10.23 The Doha Programme of Action, which was adopted in March 2022, contains a broad range of actions under six focus areas. The subprogramme provided support to the national focal points of the least developed countries, through a meeting held in Rwanda in June 2022, during which information on available support in implementing the Doha Programme of Action was provided and peer learning about mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action into national development plans was facilitated. Furthermore, the Office organized dedicated virtual meetings for national focal points related to support for investment promotion and access to different financing options that could support the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action.
- 10.24 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.2).

Table 10.2
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
National focal points were involved in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, providing information on lessons learned, which was fed into the preparatory process for the negotiation of the Doha Programme of Action	National focal points participated in a regional review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including discussions on emerging challenges and how to address them through a new programme of action	National focal points engaged with partners to enhance broadband connectivity The results of a survey indicated a high likelihood (8.3 on average, on a scale ranging from 0 (worst) to 10 (best)) that national focal points would use available support to mainstream the Doha Programme of Action into national development plans

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: accelerated progress towards sustainable development through the implementation of a new programme of action for least developed countries

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 10.25 The subprogramme's work contributed to two least developed countries mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action into their development plans with support from the United Nations system, which did not meet the planned target of 10 least developed countries. The target was not met owing to the delayed adoption of the Programme of Action, which occurred in March 2022 instead of January 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 10.26 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.3).

Table 10.3
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
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	Two least developed countries mainstreamed the Doha 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	Five additional least developed countries mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action into their development plans with support from the United Nations system

Result 2: private sector plays an enhanced role in addressing vulnerabilities of least developed countries**Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024**

- 10.27 The subprogramme's work contributed to the engagement of various private sector actors – through an advisory group – in the preparations for the Private Sector Forum, to be held at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, with private sector actors announcing the commitments to be made at the Conference to support the least developed countries through specific partnerships in several priority areas, including digital skills and connectivity, capacity-building and access to finance for micro-entrepreneurs, sustainable tourism and local infrastructure, which met the planned target.
- 10.28 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.4).

Table 10.4
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
Private sector actors involved in selected meetings	Investment promotion agencies strengthen capacity on foreign direct investment attraction and facilitation	Private sector entities participated in the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries private sector advisory group, engaging in dialogue and announcing commitments to be made at the Conference in support of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action	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	Five partnerships related to the objectives of the Doha Programme of Action implemented in least developed countries, including increased access by small and medium-sized enterprises to sustainable energy and broadband connectivity to create employment opportunities

Result 3: improved tertiary education options in least developed countries through an online university for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education

Proposed programme plan for 2024

- 10.29 Facilitating access to tertiary education can support the creation of a skilled workforce and support higher and more inclusive growth. On average, in 2020, enrolment in tertiary education was only 13 per cent for male persons and 10 per cent for female persons in the least developed countries, up from 10 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively, in 2010.¹ The subprogramme supported the negotiation of the Doha Programme of Action, which includes a target to undertake feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in the least developed countries.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 10.30 The lesson for the subprogramme was the need to leverage the knowledge and skills of other organizations in order to support processes aimed at the establishment of an online university addressing the specific needs of the least developed countries. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will reach out to suitable partners to take stock of existing initiatives providing access to higher education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields and will develop an implementation plan based on a feasibility study for an online university. The subprogramme will support the creation of a virtual network of educational institutions to share experiences of and collaborate on curriculum development and will promote gender equality and a gender balance in access to online learning, while enabling free or low-cost access for the poorest and the most vulnerable.
- 10.31 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.5).

Table 10.5

Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
—	—	Member States agree to include in the Doha Programme of Action a target to undertake feasibility studies to explore the possibility of establishing an online university or other equivalent platforms for least developed countries	Member States consider options for establishing an online university to support online graduate and postgraduate university-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics education	Member States agree to a proposal to establish an online university dedicated to students from least developed countries in collaboration with partner organizations

Deliverables

- 10.32 Table 10.6 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, UIS.Stat Bulk Data Download Service. Available at <http://data.uis.unesco.org/> (accessed on 24 October 2022).

Table 10.6

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2022 actual</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	7	7	7	3
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	1	1	3	3
2. Official documents of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	6	6	4	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	59	43	59	46
3. Meetings of the General Assembly	13	13	13	13
4. 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	8	10	10
5. Regional review meetings on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries	–	–	–	2
6. Ministerial meetings of the least developed countries and related consultations	5	5	5	5
7. 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	5	3	6
8. Meetings of the Group of Least Developed Countries	10	10	10	10
9. Meetings of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	18	2	18	–
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	8	8	8	13
10. Workshops for national focal points of the least developed countries and round-table discussions on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries	6	6	6	10
11. Seminars on partnerships for the least developed countries	2	2	2	3
Technical materials (number of materials)	14	14	14	16
12. On the state of the least developed countries	1	–	1	1
13. On the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and synergies with the Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development	–	–	–	1
14. On progress towards the graduation of the least developed countries	1	1	1	1
15. On the implementation of specific areas of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, including the establishment of an online university for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education	4	4	4	5
16. On issues relating to the least developed countries	8	9	8	8
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: substantive advice to the group of 46 least developed countries on the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action; briefing to Member States on the work of the Office; advice and substantive support to the work of the Broadband Commission and advocacy for support for the least developed countries, including through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and participation in high-level meetings, as well for enhanced smooth transition measures.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: promotional materials on the global outreach campaign for the Doha Programme of Action; communications campaigns on upcoming graduations.				
External and media relations: press releases, press conferences and op-eds on issues relating to the least developed countries; information campaign (including videos, infographics and other social media material) on progress achieved in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: website of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.				

Subprogramme 2

Landlocked developing countries

Objective

- 10.33 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, enhance 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

- 10.34 To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:
- (a) Provide support to Member States in their intergovernmental processes related to the priorities of landlocked developing countries, in line with relevant agendas and agreements;
 - (b) Undertake research and analytical assessments to assist landlocked developing countries to enact policies conducive to their developmental priorities, including evidence-based information for the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries;
 - (c) Lead the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, organize pre-conference events and capacity-building activities and facilitate knowledge exchange and peer learning among landlocked developing countries and transit countries on priority areas;
 - (d) Carry out advocacy activities to mobilize international support for the convening of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and its expected outcome, as well as the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and other relevant agendas;
 - (e) Coordinate, monitor and assess progress made in relation to the Vienna Programme of Action, including the effective implementation of the road map for accelerated implementation, and develop a new road map for implementation of the expected outcome of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.
- 10.35 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:
- (a) Increased support towards landlocked developing countries from the international community to address the needs and challenges arising from their 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 economic diversification, integration into global and regional value chains and structural economic transformation.

Programme performance in 2022

Representatives from landlocked developing countries actively engage on transit, transport and trade facilitation for integration into the global market

- 10.36 The COVID-19 pandemic and logistics and supply chain disruptions, including rising transport and shipping costs and non-tariff barriers, such as additional border controls and documentation requirements, undermined export competitiveness and limited progress on sustainable development in landlocked developing countries. The subprogramme raised awareness and conducted capacity-

building activities for government officials from landlocked developing countries to address these issues. The subprogramme organized the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries, which had dedicated sessions on the importance of enhancing the transport and information and communications technology (ICT) connectivity of landlocked developing countries to aid recovery from the pandemic, leveraging digital technologies to enhance structural transformation and integration of landlocked developing countries into global trade and promoting the resilience and sustainability of transport systems.

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

Table 10.7

Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
—	The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the 2021 edition of the annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries indicated an interest in capacity-building on policies that promote transport connectivity, transit and trade facilitation	Sixty-one government officials from landlocked developing countries and transit countries actively engaged on how to promote transport connectivity, transit and trade facilitation, in particular digital connectivity for integration into the global market

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: better coordinated United Nations support to landlocked developing countries

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 10.38 The subprogramme's work contributed to the implementation of 10 initiatives contained in the road map on transit, transport, trade facilitation, energy and ICT development, and structural economic transformation, and more than 100 newly reported initiatives in a road map by the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Landlocked Developing Countries, which exceeded the planned target of at least five new initiatives being implemented.
- 10.39 Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.8).

Table 10.8

Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
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, implemented 10 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	A revised road map aligned with the next programme of action for landlocked developing countries is prepared and implemented following the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Result 2: strengthened capacities of landlocked developing countries to achieve climate action and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 10.40 The subprogramme's work contributed to thematic events, research and dedicated sessions on transit and transport and environmentally sustainable and resilient transport systems at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which led to landlocked developing countries Member States outlining priorities and recommendations with a view to taking common positions on climate action and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that contribute to preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which met the planned target.
- 10.41 Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.9).

Table 10.9

Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (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	Member States called for the establishment of transport systems that were sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerated the energy transition and enabled climate-smart trade facilitation solutions (General Assembly resolution 77/246)	Member States identify and agree on regional focused action and commitments to support the landlocked developing countries in achieving climate action and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic	Implementation of climate action activities to build climate-resilient transport systems

Result 3: Accelerated progress towards sustainable development in landlocked developing countries

Proposed programme plan for 2024

- 10.42 In 2022, the subprogramme started preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries by organizing events and preparing substantive reports on issues of importance to sustainable development in landlocked developing countries (see General Assembly resolution [76/217](#)). The subprogramme organized an expert group meeting on enhancing the role of foreign investment for structural economic transformation in landlocked developing countries and prepared reports on scaling up renewables in landlocked developing countries, foreign direct investment for structural transformation in landlocked developing countries and improving transport connectivity in landlocked developing countries. The subprogramme also contributed to the re-establishment and revitalization of the Group of Friends of Landlocked Developing Countries to strengthen support and attention for these countries.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 10.43 The lesson for the subprogramme was that, on the basis of the experience of previous programmes of action, any successor programme to the Vienna Programme of Action would be best supported through intensive engagement at the national level with focal points for all areas identified so as to broaden awareness and build mutual interest and collaboration within the overarching developmental framework for landlocked developing countries. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will enhance outreach to and partnerships with all national-level stakeholders, including national focal points, resident coordinators, United Nations country teams and officials from relevant government ministries, in order to raise awareness of the Vienna Programme of Action and the successor programme of action. This will be achieved through training workshops, regular briefings, thematic meetings and an intensive advocacy campaign. It will also build momentum towards the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.
- 10.44 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.10).

Table 10.10
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
—	—	Landlocked developing countries were engaged to provide input into the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries through meetings, events and reports	Landlocked developing countries formulate common positions and priorities linked to the preparatory process for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	At least two landlocked developing countries initiate action to mainstream the new programme of action

Deliverables

- 10.45 Table 10.11 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 10.11
Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	9	15
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 and the new programme of action for landlocked developing countries	1	1	1	1
2. Official documents for the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	—	—	8	6
3. Official documents of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	—	—	—	8

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

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2022 actual</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	41	43	52	47
4. Meetings of the Second Committee of the General Assembly	15	17	15	15
5. Meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council	2	2	2	2
6. Annual ministerial meetings of the landlocked developing countries and consultations on outcomes thereof, and other ministerial meetings	10	10	10	10
7. Regional review meetings on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024	–	–	3	–
8. Meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries	–	–	7	7
9. Meetings of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries	12	12	14	12
10. Expert group meetings on thematic issues such as structural economic transformation, sustainable development, trade facilitation measures and the COVID-19 pandemic	2	2	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	3	4	3	4
11. On the enhancement of the analytical capacity of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries	1	1	1	1
12. On the enhancement of the role of the private sector in trade facilitation and structural transformation	1	1	1	1
13. 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	2	–	1
14. 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	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	5	8	9	12
15. Round-table discussion on capacity-building	1	1	1	2
16. Workshop for national focal points of landlocked developing countries	1	1	1	2
17. Panel discussion on best practices and solutions to specific needs of landlocked developing countries	1	1	1	1
18. Training events covering the COVID-19 pandemic, energy, ICT, infrastructure, Sustainable Development Goal 14, climate change and desertification	2	5	2	2
19. 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	3
20. Workshops on mainstreaming the new programme of action and developing the road map and monitoring framework	–	–	–	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	4	4	4	5
21. On thematic issues and indicators of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and the 2030 Agenda	2	2	2	2
22. On thematic development issues in landlocked developing countries	2	2	2	2
23. Guide on mainstreaming the new programme of action	–	–	–	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: substantive advice 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; side events promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024.

Databases and substantive digital materials: database of indicators for landlocked developing countries for the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
--------------------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: promotional materials and global outreach campaign to raise awareness of the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

External and media relations: press releases and press conferences on development issues relating to landlocked developing countries.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: web pages relating to landlocked developing countries, including on the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

Subprogramme 3 Small island developing States

Objective

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

Strategy

- 10.47 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;
 - (b) Mobilize resources for small island developing States in priority areas, including through a targeted resource mobilization strategy and by developing tailored policy tools;
 - (c) Provide 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 recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic into the work on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by advocating enhanced support and increased resources in addressing the impact of the pandemic, strengthening coherence in the support provided at the national, regional and global levels and facilitating the sharing of experiences between small island developing States;
 - (f) Lead the preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.
- 10.48 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;
 - (c) Enhanced capacity of small island developing States to devise, formulate and implement policies that promote sustainable development and make progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

Programme performance in 2022

Progress on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage

- 10.49 According to the World Meteorological Organization report entitled *2020 State of Climate Services: Risk Information and Early Warning Systems*, it is estimated that over the past 50 years, small island developing States have lost \$153 billion owing to weather-, climate- and water-related hazards. The subprogramme, in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and beyond, has been advocating the establishment of new funding arrangements to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including small island developing States, in responding to loss and damage. This work included providing substantive and organizational support to small island developing States in the context of high-level dialogues on climate finance, which informed negotiations at the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, held in 2021 and 2022, respectively, as well as convening leaders of small island developing States, development partners and international financial institutions to drive outcomes on loss and damage at those same Conferences of the Parties.
- 10.50 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.12).

Table 10.12
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)
—	At its twenty-sixth session, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Santiago network would be provided with funds to support technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries and decided to establish the Glasgow Dialogue between States parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change	At its twenty-seventh session, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, including with a focus on addressing loss and damage by providing and assisting in mobilizing new and additional resources, and that those new arrangements complement and include sources, funds, processes and initiatives under and outside the Framework Convention and the Paris Agreement. It also outlined institutional arrangements to operationalize the Santiago network

Planned results for 2024

Result 1: enhanced access to finance for small island developing States through the strengthening and development of policy tools

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 10.51 The subprogramme's work contributed to the work of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States with outreach to

stakeholders, including development partners and international financial institutions, which did not meet the planned target of strengthened international support measures to enable small island developing States to better withstand extreme shocks and build sustainable economic, social and environmental resilience. The planned target was not met owing to the extension of time for the Panel to complete its work to 30 June 2023.

- 10.52 Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.13).

Table 10.13
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
The General Assembly adopted resolution 75/215 , 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 76/203 , 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	The General Assembly adopted resolution 77/156 , in which it welcomed the progress of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States	Increased awareness and recognition of the need for the multidimensional vulnerability index, which can inform the delivery of targeted development finance	The outcome of the 2024 fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States includes an internationally endorsed multidimensional vulnerability index that can be used to enhance support measures for small island developing States

Result 2: data leveraged for a new global framework for the sustainable development of small island developing States

Programme performance in 2022 and target for 2024

- 10.53 The subprogramme's work contributed to enhanced reporting by small island developing States on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by using a monitoring and reporting framework, which allowed them to better assess and address gaps and progress in implementation, which met the planned target.
- 10.54 Progress towards the objective and target for 2024 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.14).

Table 10.14
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
The General Assembly adopted resolution 75/215 , 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 76/203 , 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 enhanced reporting on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by using a monitoring and reporting framework, which allowed them to better assess and address gaps and progress in implementation	Small island developing States use timely data and analysis on vulnerabilities to determine the global actions and commitments needed to implement the 2030 Agenda	Small island developing States develop evidence-based policy recommendations and a set of concrete deliverables emanating from data and analysis from the monitoring and reporting framework to be included in a new programme of action and agenda on small island developing States

Result 3: strengthened private sector partnerships to build resilience in small island developing States

Proposed programme plan for 2024

- 10.55 Innovative solutions and partnerships with the private sector can help to build resilience to future economic, environmental and social shocks to which Small island developing States are often most exposed. For example, the Floating Solar Energy Partnership in Maldives increased the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources, while also contributing to the development of more reliable and affordable sources of renewable energy. The subprogramme established the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, which convenes small island developing States and the private sector to share best practices and lessons learned with regard to forging private sector partnerships. The Network facilitates collaboration among small island developing States and regional private sector organizations with a view to strengthening interregional business alliances, and encourages international businesses to focus on small island developing States as potential market opportunities and vice versa.

Lessons learned and planned change

- 10.56 The lesson for the subprogramme was the need to leverage the work already being done by members of the Network and incorporate it regularly into the Network's activities and member relations, including by holding discussions and events. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will design and implement a communications strategy to increase engagement and knowledge-sharing within the Network so as to enable multidirectional communication and community-building and strengthen private sector engagement in building resilience in small island developing States. The subprogramme will also make relevant information on engagement opportunities more accessible and digestible to the business and investment community.

10.57 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 10.15).

Table 10.15
Performance measure

2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (planned)	2024 (planned)
–	Increased private sector engagement in a Small Island Developing States Global Business Network virtual forum on leveraging partnerships for the sustainable development of ocean energy in small island developing States	Strengthened private sector engagement at the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network forum, held in April 2022, with increased private sector participation, including the creation of a partnership to connect supply and demand of fish and prevent overfishing and waste through big data, thereby contributing towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14	Five partnerships between small island developing States and the private sector developed in priority areas in preparation for launch at the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network forum to be held in 2024	Small island developing States and private sector partnerships utilize a strengthened private sector engagement framework, agreed in the context of the new programme of action and agenda on small island developing States agenda, to maximize impact and align initiatives in priority areas and reduce implementation barriers for small island developing States using a simplified, robust and consistent approach to private sector engagement

Deliverables

10.58 Table 10.16 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 10.16
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2022 planned	2022 actual	2023 planned	2024 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	9	14	17	14
1. Meetings of the Second Committee of the General Assembly	3	6	3	6
2. Meetings and consultations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council	2	2	2	2
3. Review meetings on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway	–	–	8	–
4. Meetings of the group of small island developing States	2	3	2	3
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	3	2	3

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

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2022 planned</i>	<i>2022 actual</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	–	1	1
6. On strengthening the capacity of small island developing States to attract climate finance from the private sector	1	–	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	15	13	15	16
7. Seminars on the support from development partners to small island developing States for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway	2	2	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	2	3	2	4
9. Seminars with national focal points on the coordination of efforts to achieve and monitor the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda	4	3	4	3
10. Seminars on strengthening collaboration through joint efforts and activities in the United Nations system and other international organizations, including regional intergovernmental organizations of which the small island developing States are members	3	3	3	3
11. Seminars on private sector involvement in supporting implementation of the Samoa Pathway	2	1	2	2
12. Seminars on the access of small island developing States to climate change-related finance for development goals	2	1	2	2
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	1	1
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	1	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	10	8	10	10
14. On implementing the Samoa Pathway	2	1	2	2
15. On international support provided to small island developing States for the implementation of the Goals and the Samoa Pathway	2	2	2	2
16. On matters relating to the financing, implementation and monitoring of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda	2	2	2	2
17. On issues relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in small island developing States	2	1	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
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: briefings to 38 Member States on the work of the Office; advocacy in appropriate forums for the special case of small island developing States in achieving sustainable development.				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: substantive events to provide support to 38 small island developing States; campaigns on matters relating to small island developing States and sustainable development.				
External and media relations: press releases and press appearances on issues relating to small island developing States, including relevant United Nations processes and activities.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: web pages, including on the preparatory processes for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.				

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2024

Overview

10.59 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 10.17 to 10.19.

Table 10.17

Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes				Total	Percentage	2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other				
Posts	5 902.0	6 708.8	–	–	789.2		789.2	11.8	7 498.0
Other staff costs	291.7	860.8	–	–	(172.7)		(172.7)	(20.1)	688.1
Hospitality	–	0.5	–	–	2.0		2.0	400.0	2.5
Consultants	40.5	160.2	(86.8)	5.0	65.3		(16.5)	(10.3)	143.7
Experts	233.6	354.9	–	–	141.5		141.5	39.9	496.4
Travel of staff	207.6	282.7	(45.4)	–	197.0		151.6	53.6	434.3
Contractual services	139.8	192.3	–	20.0	31.0		51.0	26.5	243.3
General operating expenses	33.2	43.3	–	–	(17.0)		(17.0)	(39.3)	26.3
Supplies and materials	2.2	12.3	–	15.0	–		15.0	122.0	27.3
Furniture and equipment	30.0	18.0	–	–	–		–	–	18.0
Improvement of premises	2.1	–	–	–	–		–	–	–
Total	6 882.7	8 633.8	(132.2)	40.0	1 036.3		944.1	10.9	9 577.9

Table 10.18

Overall: proposed posts and post changes for 2024

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved 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)
Establishment	8	1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 GS (PL) under subprogramme 1; 1 P-4 under subprogramme 2; 1 P-4 under subprogramme 3; and 1 GS (OL) under executive direction and management
Proposed for 2024	41	1 USG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 9 P-5, 11 P-4, 7 P-3, 3 P-2, 1 GS (PL), 7 GS (OL)

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

Table 10.19
Overall: proposed posts by category and grade

(Number of posts)

Category and grade	2023 approved	Changes				2024 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	—	—	1	1	9
P-4	8	—	—	3	3	11
P-3	6	—	—	1	1	7
P-2/1	2	—	—	1	1	3
Subtotal	27	—	—	6	6	33
General Service and related						
GS (PL)	—	—	—	1	1	1
GS (OL)	6	—	—	1	1	7
Subtotal	6	—	—	2	2	8
Total	33	—	—	8	8	41

10.60 Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in tables 10.20 to 10.22 and figure 10.I.

10.61 As reflected in tables 10.20 (1) and 10.22, the overall resources proposed for 2024 amount to \$9,577,900 before recosting, reflecting a net increase of \$944,100 (or 10.9 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2023. Resource changes result from technical adjustments, new and expanded mandates, and other changes. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 10.20
Overall: evolution of financial resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) Regular budget

Component/subprogramme	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
A. Executive direction and management	1 255.6	1 681.0	—	—	130.8	130.8	7.8	1 811.8
B. Programme of work								
1. Least developed countries	3 806.4	3 936.5	—	—	509.2	509.2	12.9	4 445.7
2. Landlocked developing countries	996.5	1 697.5	(115.2)	25.0	201.6	111.4	6.6	1 808.9
3. Small island developing States	824.2	1 318.8	(17.0)	15.0	194.7	192.7	14.6	1 511.5
Subtotal, B	5 627.1	6 952.8	(132.2)	40.0	905.5	813.3	11.7	7 766.1
Subtotal, 1	6 882.7	8 633.8	(132.2)	40.0	1 036.3	944.1	10.9	9 577.9

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2022 expenditure</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>2024 estimate</i>
B. Programme of work					
1. Least developed countries	1 217.0	3 740.2	(1 896.7)	(50.7)	1 843.5
2. Landlocked developing countries	193.4	711.0	80.5	11.3	791.5
3. Small island developing States	478.7	479.6	(36.1)	(7.5)	443.5
Subtotal, B	1 889.1	4 930.8	(1 852.3)	(37.6)	3 078.5
Subtotal, 2	1 889.1	4 930.8	(1 852.3)	(37.6)	3 078.5
Total	8 771.8	13 564.6	(908.2)	(6.7)	12 656.4

Table 10.21

Overall: proposed posts for 2024 by source of funding, component and subprogramme

(Number of posts)

Regular budget

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2023 approved</i>	<i>Changes</i>				<i>2024 proposed</i>
		<i>Technical adjustments</i>	<i>New/expanded mandates</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	
A. Executive direction and management	7	—	—	1	1	8
B. Programme of work						
1. Least developed countries	17	—	—	5	5	22
2. Landlocked developing countries	5	—	—	1	1	6
3. Small island developing States	4	—	—	1	1	5
Subtotal, B	26	—	—	7	7	33
Total	33	—	—	8	8	41

Table 10.22

Overall: evolution of financial and post resources

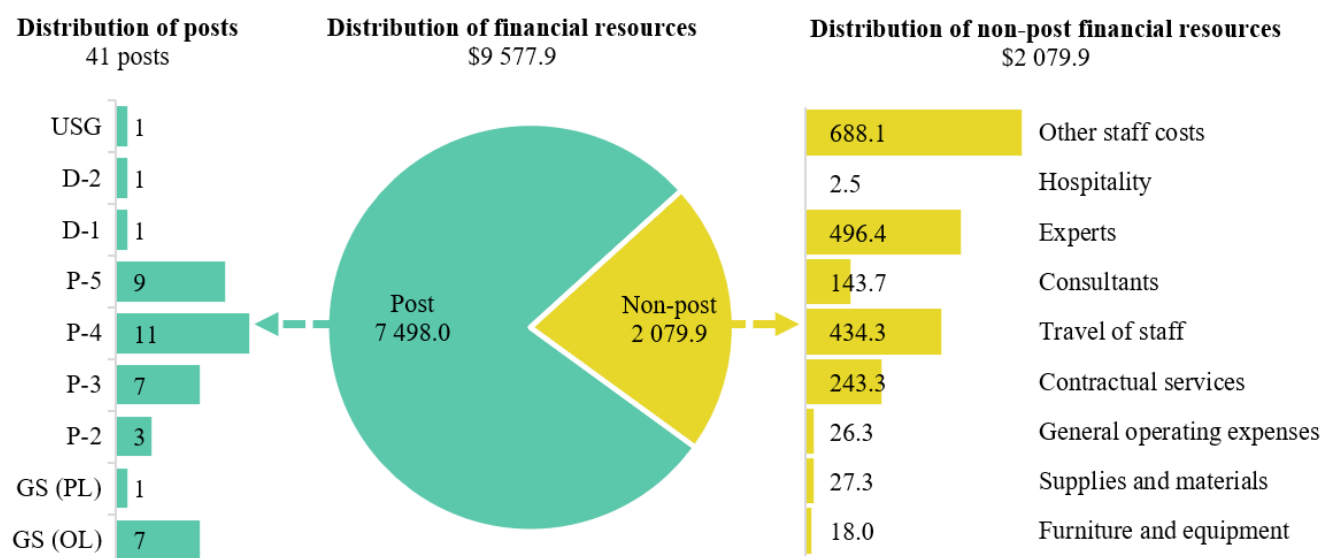
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	5 902.0	6 708.8	—	—	789.2	789.2	11.8	7 498.0
Non-post	980.7	1 925.0	(132.2)	40.0	247.1	154.9	8.0	2 079.9
Total	6 882.7	8 633.8	(132.2)	40.0	1 036.3	944.1	10.9	9 577.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		27	—	—	6	6	22.2	33
General Service and related		6	—	—	2	2	33.3	8
Total		33	—	—	8	8	24.2	41

Figure 10.I

Distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (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 10.17, resource changes reflect a decrease of \$132,200, as follows:

- (a) **Subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries.** The decrease of \$115,200 relates to the removal of non-recurrent provisions in support of new and expanded mandates approved for 2023 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/246](#) on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries;
- (b) **Subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.** The decrease of \$17,000 relates to the removal of non-recurrent provisions in support of new and expanded mandates approved for 2023 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/245](#) on 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.

New and expanded mandates

10.63 As reflected in table 10.17, resource changes reflect an increase of \$40,000, as follows:

- (a) **Subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries.** The increase of \$25,000 relates to the resource requirements in support of new and expanded mandates pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/246](#) on follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries;
- (b) **Subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.** The increase of \$15,000 relates to the resource requirements in support of new and expanded mandates pursuant to General Assembly resolution [77/245](#) on 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.

Other changes

10.64 As reflected in table 10.17, the net effect of the proposed changes is a net increase of \$1,036,300. The breakdown of changes is as follows:

- (a) **Executive direction and management.** The increase of \$130,800 reflects the net effect of:
 - (i) Additional requirements under posts (\$49,800) for the proposed establishment of one new post of Programme Management Assistant (General Service (Other level)), for which additional information is provided in annex III;
 - (ii) Additional non-post requirements (\$81,000) mainly for travel of the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative and senior management to attend a higher number of meetings at which issues of relevance to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States will be discussed (\$110,000) and for hospitality to cover official functions for representatives of Member States and experts (\$2,000), offset in part by reduced requirements under contractual services for external printing, as the Office will print less and will publish its publications online (\$14,000), and under general operating expenses for communications costs related to the planned termination of the majority of desktop phones and the anticipated reduction in long-distance charges owing to the increased use of virtual means of communication (\$17,000).
- (b) **Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries.** The increase of \$509,200 reflects the net effect of:
 - (i) Additional requirements under posts (\$500,000) for the proposed establishment of five new posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (Principal level)), for which additional information is provided in annex III;
 - (ii) Additional non-post requirements (\$9,200) under experts for the meetings of the national focal points of the least developed countries on the follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and on the mainstreaming of the Doha Programme of Action into national sustainable development plans (\$30,500); consultants to prepare a background paper for the report on the implementation of an investment promotion regime for the least developed countries (\$35,300); travel of staff to provide substantive support for the meetings of the national focal points of the least developed countries and to conduct various advocacy activities (\$80,000); and contractual services to further develop the Office's data journalism capacity and to deliver a more analytical approach to advocacy centred on statistical analyses of Doha Programme of Action delivery in the least developed countries (\$40,000). These additional resource requirements are offset in part by reduced requirements under other staff costs owing to the establishment of two posts at the P-2 and General Service (Principal level) levels (\$142,700), as well as the fact that the Office will reduce reliance on temporary assistance upon completion of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2023 (\$30,000); and under travel of staff, as the Office plans to attend the meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries virtually (\$3,900).
- (c) **Subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries.** The increase of \$201,600 reflects the net effect of:
 - (i) Additional requirements under posts (\$119,700) for the proposed establishment of one new post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4), for which additional information is provided in annex III;
 - (ii) Additional non-post requirements (\$81,900) under experts to support the participation of government representatives in capacity-building workshops on mainstreaming the new programme of action into national sustainable development plans (\$31,000); consultants to prepare a substantive guide on the priorities of landlocked developing countries and on how to further mainstream and operationalize the new programme of action into national sustainable development plans (\$10,000); travel of staff to support the capacity-

building workshops and to develop and discuss the road map of the new programme of action (\$10,900); and contractual services to engage an individual contractor to develop an online transport and trade costs tracker that will be used to monitor the transport and trade costs of landlocked developing countries (\$30,000).

- (d) **Subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.** The increase of \$194,700 reflects the net effect of:
- (i) Additional requirements under posts (\$119,700) for the proposed establishment of one new post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4), for which additional information is provided in annex III;
 - (ii) Additional non-post requirements (\$75,000) under experts for expert group meetings on sectoral issues and on a road map for the implementation of the programme of action on small island developing States (\$80,000) and the related travel of staff to support those expert group meetings (\$20,000); consultants to prepare a report on thematic and sectoral issues for the implementation of the programme of action on small island developing States (\$20,000), offset in part by reduced requirements for travel of staff, as the subprogramme would no longer need to attend the regional and interregional meetings in preparation for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (although resources would be needed for additional expert group meetings planned for 2024) (\$20,000), and contractual services, as the subprogramme would require fewer resources to update the portal for implementation of the new programme of action on small island developing States (\$25,000).

Extrabudgetary resources

- 10.65 As reflected in table 10.20 (2), the Office expects to receive cash contributions, which would complement regular budget resources. In 2024, extrabudgetary resources are estimated at \$3,078,500 and would be used mainly to carry out activities related to follow-up to 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. The expected decrease of \$1,852,300 compared with the estimate for 2023 is due primarily to the completion of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.
- 10.66 The extrabudgetary resources under the present 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

- 10.67 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.
- 10.68 The Office 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 deputizes for and is accountable to the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative.

- 10.69 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which 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 is integrating environmental management practices into its operations. The Office began a dialogue with staff, in 2019, on environmental sustainability in the workplace, including through implementation of an in-house guide entitled “Things to Know, Things to Do – Reducing Environmental Impacts in the Workplace”. At the same time, an annual environmental sustainability strategy was adopted to assess progress and ensure that commitments were implemented in the subsequent year. To ensure continued engagement on sustainability with staff, a dialogue on the Office’s 2023 environmental sustainability strategy was held on 13 December 2022. A new staff survey on daily sustainability commitments will be carried out in the first half of 2023 and a dialogue will be held on lessons learned from the sustainability practices utilized at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which will then be applied to conferences on landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in 2024.
- 10.70 Information on the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 10.23. The Office is committed to achieving further improvements through enhanced advance planning. For the Office, international travel increased in 2022, 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 and the Samoa Pathway. The lower compliance rate was due mainly to delays in nominations and putting together the documentation required for travel approval, including new COVID-19-related documents, and delays in receiving the programmes of and background documents for events to which the Office is invited, something over which the Office has little control.
- 10.71 Going forward, the Office will continue to raise awareness among staff and managers of the need to comply with the policy on the advance booking of air travel, 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 10.23
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	<i>Actual 2020</i>	<i>Actual 2021</i>	<i>Actual 2022</i>	<i>Planned 2023</i>	<i>Planned 2024</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	85	86	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	84	47	46	100	100

- 10.72 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$1,811,800 and reflect a net increase of \$130,800 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 10.64 (a) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 10.24 and figure 10.II.

Table 10.24

Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources

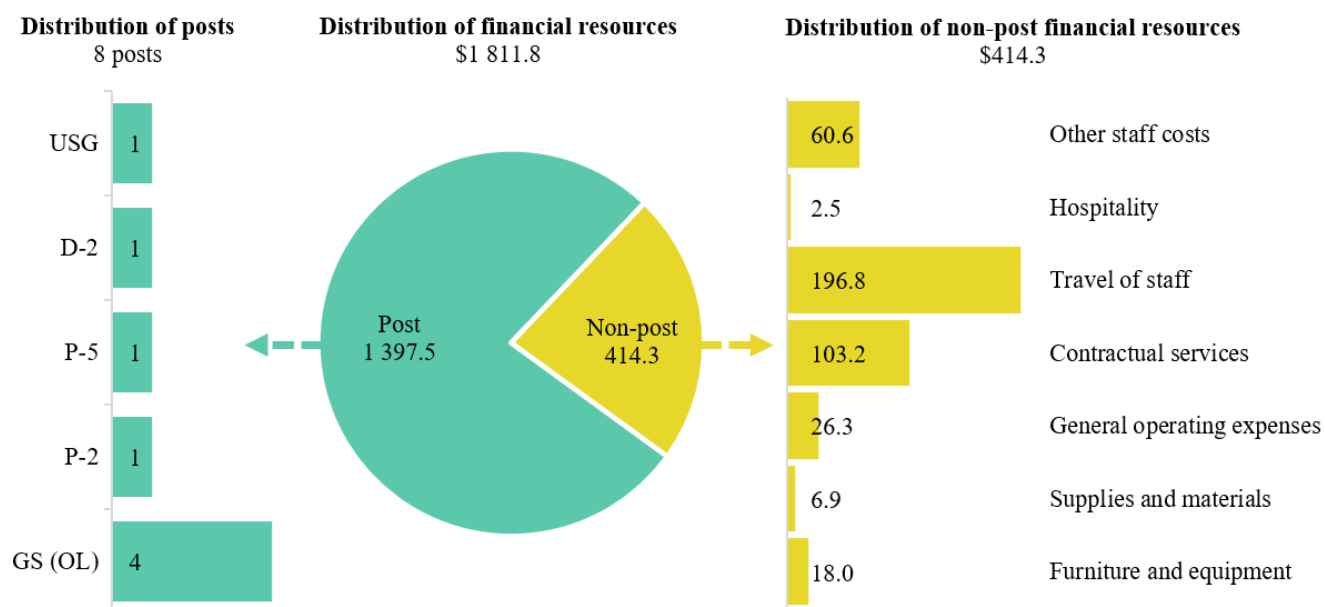
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	996.5	1 347.7	—	—	49.8	49.8	3.7	1 397.5
Non-post	259.1	333.3	—	—	81.0	81.0	24.3	414.3
Total	1 255.6	1 681.0	—	—	130.8	130.8	7.8	1 811.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
General Service and related		3	—	—	1	1	33.3	4
Total		7	—	—	1	1	14.3	8

Figure 10.II

Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Least developed countries

- 10.73 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$4,445,700 and reflect a net increase of \$509,200 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraph 10.64 (b) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 10.25 and figure 10.III.

Table 10.25

Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources

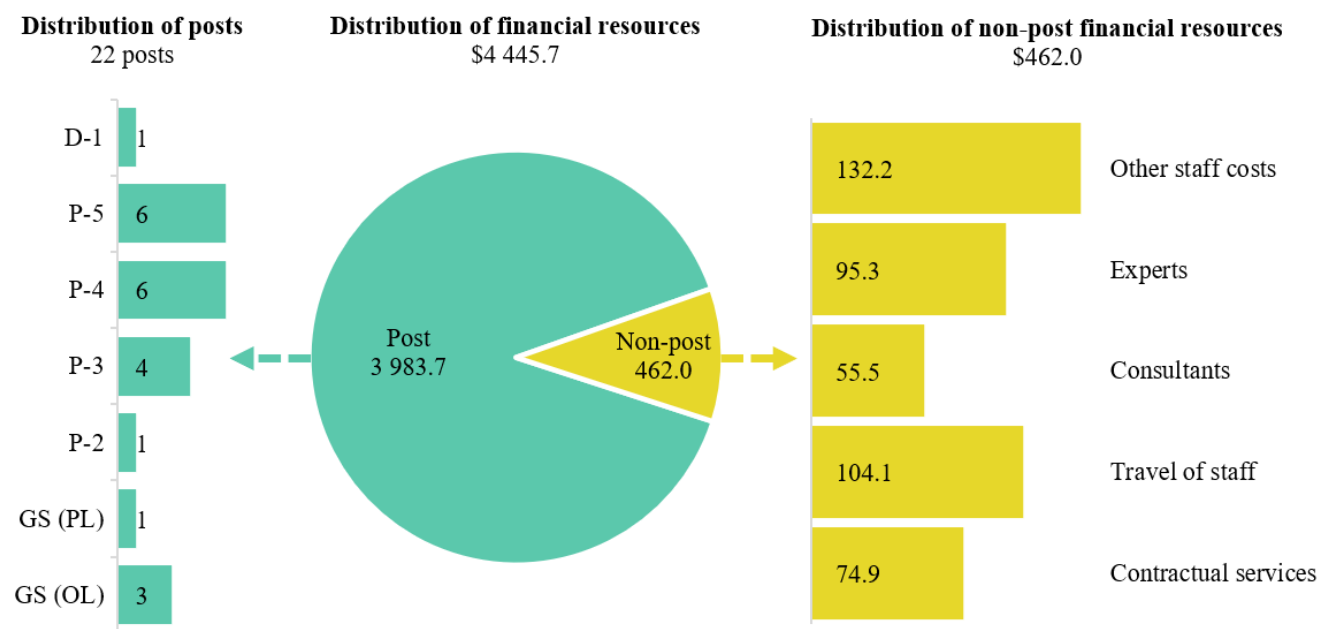
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 399.0	3 483.7	–	–	500.0	500.0	14.4	3 983.7
Non-post	407.4	452.8	–	–	9.2	9.2	2.0	462.0
Total	3 806.4	3 936.5	–	–	509.2	509.2	12.9	4 445.7
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	–	–	4	4	28.6	18
General Service and related		3	–	–	1	1	33.3	4
Total		17	–	–	5	5	29.4	22

Figure 10.III

Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)


Extrabudgetary resources

- 10.74 Extrabudgetary resources for this subprogramme are estimated at \$1,843,500 and would enable representatives of the least developed countries to attend meetings pertaining to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action. The expected decrease of \$1,896,700 is due mainly to the completion of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Subprogramme 2

Landlocked developing countries

10.75 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$1,808,900 and reflect a net increase of \$111,400 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraphs 10.62 (a), 10.63 (a) and 10.64 (c) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 10.26 and figure 10.IV.

Table 10.26

Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

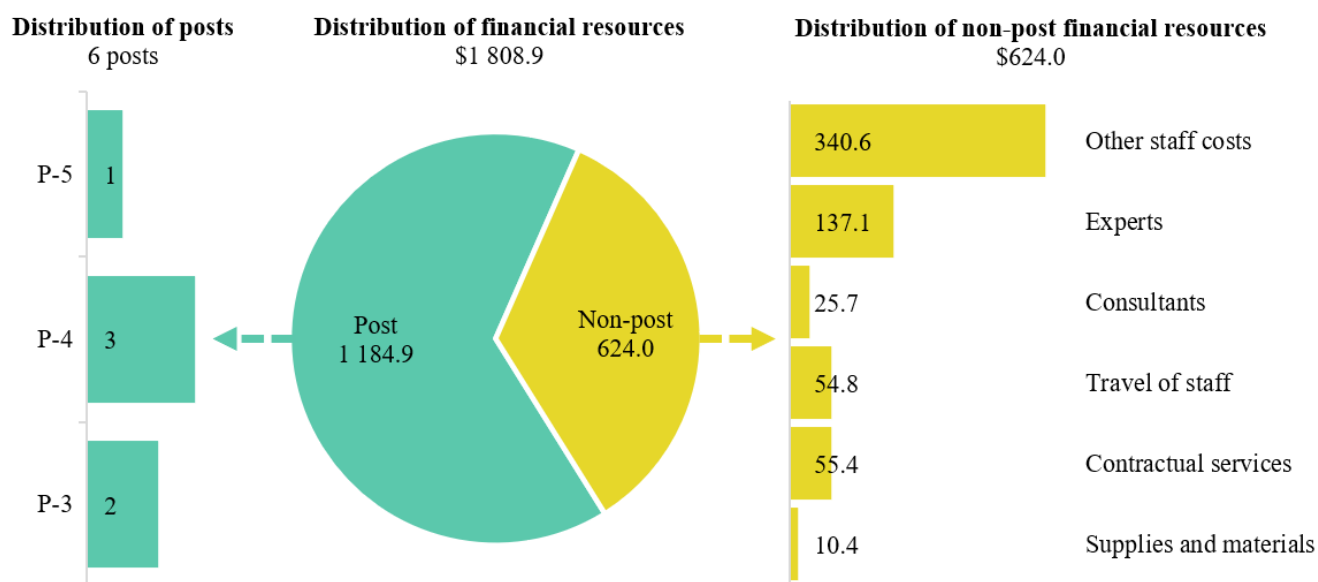
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	863.6	1 065.2	–	–	119.7	119.7	11.2	1 184.9
Non-post	132.9	632.3	(115.2)	25.0	81.9	(8.3)	(1.3)	624.0
Total	996.5	1 697.5	(115.2)	25.0	201.6	111.4	6.6	1 808.9
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		5	–	–	1	1	20.0	6
Total		5	–	–	1	1	20.0	6

Figure 10.IV

Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Extrabudgetary resources

10.76 Extrabudgetary resources for this subprogramme are estimated at \$791,500 and 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 \$80,500 is due mainly to the preparations for the Conference.

Subprogramme 3 Small island developing States

10.77 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$1,511,500 and reflect a net increase of \$192,700 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is explained in paragraphs 10.62 (b), 10.63 (b) and 10.64 (d) above. Additional details on the distribution of the proposed resources for 2024 are reflected in table 10.27 and figure 10.V.

Table 10.27

Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources

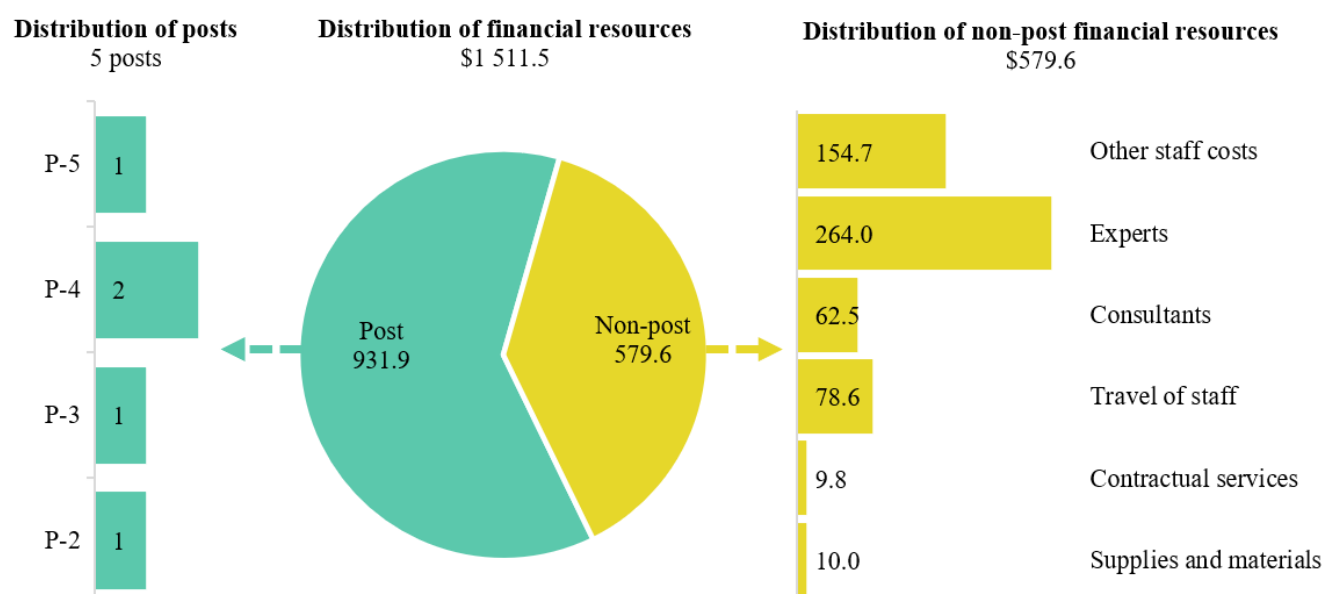
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2022 expenditure	2023 appropriation	Changes					2024 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	642.9	812.2	—	—	119.7	119.7	14.7	931.9
Non-post	181.3	506.6	(17.0)	15.0	75.0	73.0	14.4	579.6
Total	824.2	1 318.8	(17.0)	15.0	194.7	192.7	14.6	1 511.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		4	—	—	1	1	25.0	5
Total		4	—	—	1	1	25.0	5

Figure 10.V

Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

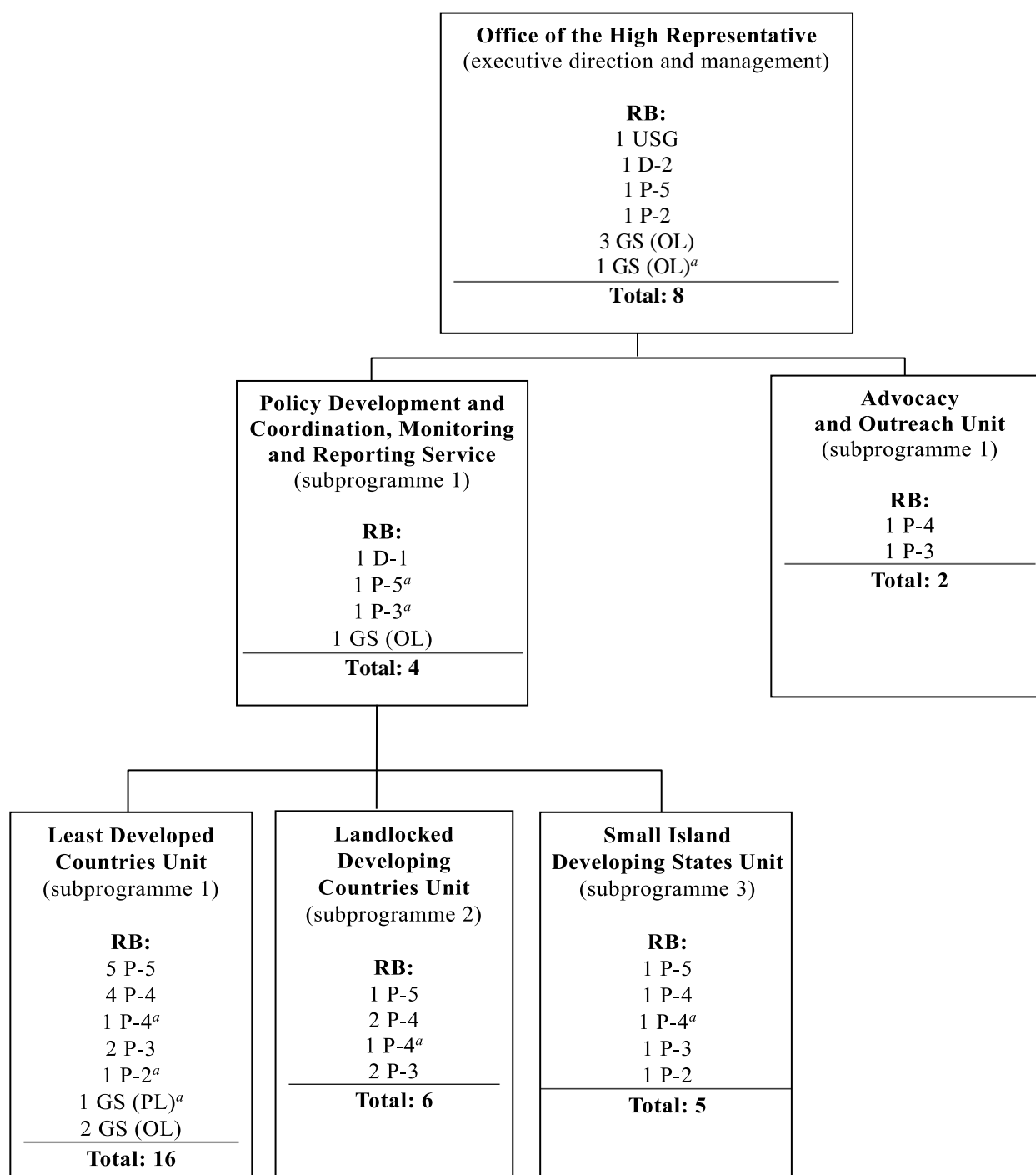


Extrabudgetary resources

- 10.78 Extrabudgetary resources for this subprogramme are estimated at \$443,500 and would provide for activities and the development of knowledge products to support representatives of small island developing States in preparations for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The expected decrease of \$36,100 is due mainly to the completion of activities in 2023 in preparation for the International Conference, including the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network and the second United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2024



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

^a New.

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/77/7](#)

The Advisory Committee notes that, while the two positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) were established for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, they are required for the increased demand relating to activities for the least developed countries, including the preparation of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha in 2023, as well as for the monitoring of and follow-up to commitments in the Doha Programme of Action. The Committee therefore considers that the long-term needs of the two positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) in the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should be reviewed and that the outcome of the review be provided in the next budget submission (para. IV.33).

Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while a significant amount of extrabudgetary resources was related to the organization of major conferences and their mid-term reviews, the Office had also been able to mobilize resources for other purposes, including the Least Developed Countries Future Forum and support for the graduation of the least developed countries, as well as support for the national focal points networks, trade ministers meeting for landlocked developing countries and thematic meetings, and the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network. The Advisory Committee trusts that the Office of the High Representative will continue with its efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources and provide disaggregated information on extrabudgetary contributions in the context of the next budget proposal (para. IV.35).

The Advisory Committee trusts that the Office of the High Representative will further strengthen coordination and collaboration with entities of the United Nations development pillar. Furthermore, the Committee reiterates its view that information on all sources of funding and the cooperation among all relevant entities, including with the resident coordinator system, towards achieving the programmes of actions for the least developed countries, landlocked developing

Upon further review of the long-term needs of the two positions and the current organizational structure, the Office concluded that continued support related to the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action would be required. It is therefore proposed to establish a post of Associate Programme Management Officer (P-2) and a post of Senior Finance and Budget Assistant (General Service (Principal level)) in the Least Developed Countries Unit. The two temporary positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) would be maintained for a period of six months while recruitment for the two posts was ongoing, as the Office would still need the functions of the two temporary positions. The functions of the incumbents of the two posts are described in annex III.

Information on extrabudgetary contributions has been provided in paragraph 10.66 above, with further details provided under each of the subprogrammes.

The Office works in collaboration and coordination with the United Nations development system entities and other multilateral international organizations under the umbrella of four well-established mechanisms with very broad memberships: the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Landlocked Developing Countries, the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for Least Developed Countries, the Inter-agency Consultative Group on Small Island

Brief description of the recommendation

countries and small island developing States, should be provided in a comprehensive manner in the context of the next budget proposal (para. IV.41).

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Developing States (jointly chaired by the Office and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and the inter-agency task force on least developed country graduation. With regard to specific programmes and partnerships with various United Nations entities, the Office engages in wide-ranging cooperation on various thematic areas.

The Office also collaborates with relevant entities of the United Nations development pillar, including with the resident coordinator system, in all project proposals for all sources of funding, where appropriate. It relies on the expertise of relevant entities of the United Nations development pillar in the implementation of its activities.

Annex III

Summary of proposed post changes, by component and subprogramme

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
Executive direction and management	1	GS (OL)	Establishment of 1 Programme Management Assistant in the Office of the High Representative	The incumbent would provide assistance in support of planning and implementation activities for the programme of work, assist in programme planning and preparation, including assistance in the interpretation of budget guidelines, and collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative data as inputs for the reporting obligations of the Office, including the strategic management application module, senior managers' compacts, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere.
Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries	1	P-5	Establishment of 1 Senior Economic Affairs Officer in the Policy Development and Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service	The incumbent would lead the preparation of an annual flagship report on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and occasional papers and think pieces on challenges faced by those three groups of countries and related policy recommendations. The incumbent would lead the economic analysis, modelling and formulation of possible economic strategies, policies and actions for adoption by the international community on key priority areas for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; lead the preparation of substantive reports and policy briefs on new or emerging development issues of potential concern to the international community, especially LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, in particular those of a regional or global nature; and make projections and policy recommendations for the consideration of the international community. The incumbent would also conceive, plan and manage expert group meetings, seminars and similar consultations that contribute to the substantive elements of the flagship report and other outputs.
Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries	1	P-3	Establishment of 1 Statistician in the Policy Development and Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service	The incumbent would oversee the collection and processing of statistical data related to the priorities of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and the creation and maintenance of a statistical database for the Office. The incumbent would also contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action through the collection, evaluation, analysis, compilation and dissemination of statistical data; the development, implementation and management of statistical databases; and the collection and analysis of data to identify trends or patterns and provide insights through graphs, charts, tables and reports using data visualization methods so as to enable data-driven planning, decision-making, presentation and reporting.
Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries	1	P-4	Establishment of 1 Economic Affairs Officer in the Least Developed Countries Unit	The incumbent would lead the work of the subprogramme related to enhancing access to STEM education in LDCs – one of the priorities of the Doha Programme of Action. This will include follow-up to a report of the Secretary-General on creating an online university, outlining, inter alia, the mapping of existing initiatives, possible new modalities, resource requirements, accreditation and sustainable funding sources, for submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. The incumbent would collaborate with suitable partners, including Member States and international organizations, to build on existing initiatives providing access to higher education in STEM subjects and to develop an implementation plan based on a feasibility study for an online university, as well as provide support for the creation of a virtual network of educational institutions. The incumbent would also conceive, plan and manage related expert group meetings, seminars and similar consultations and prepare background reports.

Part IV International cooperation for development

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries	1	P-2	Establishment of 1 Associate Programme Management Officer in the Least Developed Countries Unit	The incumbent would strengthen the network of national focal points of LDCs established by the Office by convening meetings of the national focal points on a regular basis to share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the Doha Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals into national development processes, as well as on implementation and follow-up; networking among peers; and better understanding existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models. The incumbent would also strengthen collaboration with the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and the network of resident coordinators in support of LDCs, including in the area of conflict.
Subprogramme 1, Least developed countries	1	GS (PL)	Establishment of 1 Senior Finance and Budget Assistant in the Least Developed Countries Unit	The incumbent would provide support on the financial aspects of the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action, management of financial resources, preparation of project proposals, and planning and reporting activities.
Subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries	1	P-4	Establishment of 1 Economic Affairs Officer in the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit	The incumbent would provide substantive support to advance the development issues of LLDCs in intergovernmental processes (such as the General Assembly; the ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up; the high-level political forum on sustainable development; and the intergovernmental processes of UNCCD, UNCLOS, UNCTAD, UNFCCC and WTO) by offering strategic advice and giving technical guidance. The incumbent would also substantively assist the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries in building consensus at ministerial and thematic meetings; undertake a variety of studies and analyses to provide evidence-based information to support LLDCs in intergovernmental processes; contribute to the preparation of reports, papers, concept notes and background notes on the development issues of LLDCs; prepare speeches and talking points for senior staff, United Nations officials and the Bureau of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries; and represent the Unit at international, regional and national meetings on the development issues of LLDCs.
Subprogramme 3, Small island developing States	1	P-4	Establishment of 1 Economic Affairs Officer in the Small Island Developing States Unit.	The incumbent would provide substantive support to advance the development issues of SIDS in intergovernmental processes (such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and regional commissions) by offering strategic advice and giving technical guidance. The incumbent would also substantively assist SIDS in developing their positions and build consensus in the context of key intergovernmental processes; undertake studies and analysis to provide evidence-based information to support SIDS in intergovernmental process; contribute to the preparation of reports, papers, concept notes and background notes on the sustainable development issues of SIDS; prepare speeches and talking points for senior staff and United Nations officials; represent the Unit at international, regional and national meetings on the sustainable development issues of SIDS.

Abbreviations: ECOSOC, Economic and Social Council; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GS (PL), General Service (Principal level); LDCs, least developed countries; LLDCs, landlocked developing countries; SIDS, small island developing States; STEM, science, technology, engineering and mathematics; UNCCD, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; UNCLOS, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNFCCC, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; WTO, World Trade Organization.