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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.32

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraph 13 of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.32](#), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on human rights, democracy and reconciliation in Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all assistance necessary to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.



II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015

2. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, of programme 20, Human rights, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 ([A/67/6/Rev.1](#)).

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. In his report to the General Assembly ([A/69/362](#)), the Secretary-General indicated that during the reporting period covering from 11 August 2013 to 6 August 2014, Myanmar continued to mark progress in its reform agenda. Ahead of the 2015 elections, Parliament had enacted fresh laws reflecting popular needs and ensuring popular accountability, and efforts continued for a nationwide ceasefire and for building the framework for a political dialogue. The tension in Rakhine did not lessen, causing widespread concern and alarm both domestically and internationally. Myanmar assumed the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on 1 January 2014. The United Nations continued its wide-ranging engagement with and provision of support to Myanmar.

4. The 2015 general election will be one of the elements in assessing the state of the democratic reform in Myanmar. The provision of technical electoral support from the United Nations to the Government will be determined by an electoral needs assessment mission by the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, following a request from Myanmar's Union Election Commission. Revisiting the 2008 Constitution will also be an important issue on the political agenda. For the power structures to be truly democratized, it will be important to address the power-sharing arrangements with ethnic groups within a federal governance structure. In addition, leveraging Myanmar's developmental agenda to address key challenges of fighting poverty, bringing jobs to its young people and modernizing its structure of governance, while building an open market economy with wider linkages across the outside world, will be an essential pillar of the country's democratization process.

5. Negotiations between the Government and ethnic armed groups have yielded unprecedented progress. As efforts continue for a nationwide ceasefire and for building the framework for a political dialogue, the Special Adviser will work to provide necessary support from the United Nations on critical issues, at the request of and in agreement with all sides concerned. Meanwhile, human rights concerns and the communal violence of the past few years have, at times, overshadowed the progress made by the country. While the Government of Myanmar has repeatedly made strong statements on actions to be taken against perpetrators of violence, these have not been conveyed with sufficient firmness to the local level. It will be important to build on recent positive initiatives by the Union Government, including the establishment of the Centre for Diversity and National Harmony, the appointment of a new Chief Minister in Rakhine and the activation of the three-year Rakhine State Action Plan. Moving forward the process of verification and citizenship for the Rohingyas, including the displaced, and addressing the long-

standing discrimination against the Rohingya community within a mechanism that conforms to the law of the land, as well as recognized humanitarian and human rights principles, will be important.

6. The understanding and support extended to the Special Adviser in his efforts to reach out to all relevant stakeholders in Myanmar has been invaluable. While reaffirming the need for continued constructive engagement between the United Nations and Myanmar through a fully fledged country programme, the Secretary-General invites Member States to assess the continuation of his good offices during the coming year as the country moves towards the decisive phase of the 2015 elections, fulfilling its reform agenda and an entirely new phase of national reconciliation. Taking note of the expression of support from Member States for the good offices and recognizing that the United Nations can offer much constructive assistance in maintaining and reinforcing the positive trajectory of the reform process, the international community is to positively consider recalibrating the mandate of his Special Adviser to focus on the areas of democratic reform, peace process support and strengthening intercommunal cohesion.

7. In 2015, consistent with the requests contained in paragraphs 13 (a) and (b) of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.32](#), the Secretary-General would continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on human rights, democracy and reconciliation in Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard; and give all assistance necessary to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner. The efforts of the Secretary-General's good offices would be carried out through his Special Adviser and his team, in close coordination with the Department of Political Affairs at Headquarters. The progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

8. The estimated costs of continuing the provision of the Secretary-General's good offices and pursuing his discussions on human rights, democracy and reconciliation in Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer technical assistance through his Special Adviser for Myanmar, as requested in paragraphs 13 (a) and (b) of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.32](#), for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2015, amount to \$1,161,000, net of staff assessment.

9. These resources would cover the salaries of the Special Adviser (Under-Secretary-General), three Political Affairs Officers (2 P-4 and 1 P-3) and one Assistant (General Service (Other level)), as well as other operational requirements. Other substantive and administrative support would be provided to the Special Adviser by the Department of Political Affairs.

10. The above requirements have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council ([A/69/363/Add.1](#)).

11. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 13 (b) of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.32](#) pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the related requirements are considered to be of a perennial nature and, as such, an estimated \$74,200 per annum for the implementation of the activities of the Special Rapporteur has been provided under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

V. Summary

12. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.32](#), resource requirements amounting to \$1,161,000 net of staff assessment would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2015 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.**

13. **Approval for these requirements is being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council ([A/69/363/Add.1](#)), which is currently before the General Assembly.**
