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Agenda items 70 (c) and 135

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

Proposed programme budget for 2020

Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.29](#)

**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 operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.29](#), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions relating to Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer assistance to the Government of Myanmar;

(b) To extend the appointment of the Special Envoy on Myanmar and submit her report, covering all relevant issues addressed in the resolution, to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session;

(c) To provide all assistance necessary to enable the Special Envoy to effectively discharge her mandate and to report to Member States every six months, or as warranted by the situation on the ground;

(d) To identify ways in which the existing mandates can more effectively deliver in their respective areas of responsibility concerning Myanmar and can complement each other's work through enhanced coordination;

(e) To call the continued attention of the Security Council to the situation in Myanmar with concrete recommendations for action towards resolving the humanitarian crisis, promoting the safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return of



Rohingya refugees and forcibly displaced persons and ensuring accountability for those responsible for mass atrocities and human rights violations and abuses;

(f) To fully implement the recommendations contained in the report of the independent inquiry into the involvement of the United Nations in Myanmar from 2010 to 2018.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Special Envoy to continue to participate by way of interactive dialogue in the seventy-fifth session of the Assembly.

II. Relationship of the requests to the programme plan and priorities for 2020 and the proposed programme budget for 2020

3. The activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, of the programme plan for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect.3)) and section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2).

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would extend the appointment of the Special Envoy for Myanmar, who would carry out work relating to the good offices of the Secretary-General. Accordingly, the Office of the Special Envoy is assumed to be a special political mission under thematic cluster I, Special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General.

5. The Special Envoy would continue to function on a when-actually-employed basis and be supported by a small team, based in Nay Pyi Taw and at Headquarters.

6. The Office would continue to work with a wide range of actors, including the Government of Myanmar, to provide the good offices of the Secretary-General and encourage progress in the democratic transition, especially ahead of general elections in 2020, and accountability. In particular, the Office would continue to work on promoting social cohesion and enabling a solution to the situation of the Rohingya community and other minorities. In that context, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the Special Envoy would undertake efforts so that there would be a definite advancement towards the attainment of political, social and economic rights by the Rohingya community. The Special Envoy would continue to support and advocate durable solutions for those displaced by violence. She would do the same for efforts to create conditions for voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable returns to places of origin or choice, including by addressing root causes and the scaling-up of development projects in Rakhine, one of the poorest states in Myanmar. On those fronts, the Special Envoy would work in close cooperation with key stakeholders, especially regional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

7. To improve the conditions of the members of the Rohingya community and others living in Bangladesh and Myanmar, the Office would work with officials and relevant actors within and outside Myanmar to allow unfettered humanitarian access, undertake sustained dialogue between the Myanmar authorities and refugees and pursue other confidence-building measures. In addition, the Special Envoy would

support the efforts of the international community to provide continued political and financial support to the management of the multidimensional crisis by Bangladesh. In that regard, she would work for the effective implementation of the memorandum of understanding reached on 6 July 2018 by the Government of Myanmar, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme on United Nations system support for creating the conditions for the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of refugees from Bangladesh and their reintegration into Rakhine State. That would include advocating greater access to more locations covered under the memorandum's quick-impact projects aimed at supporting recovery and resilience-based development for the benefit of all communities in Rakhine State. The memorandum was extended for one year on 27 May 2019.

8. With regard to national reconciliation, the Office of the Special Envoy would continue to advocate that all sides exercise restraint and avoid actions that could reverse the gains of the peace process while providing protection and access to civilians in need, which is paramount for greater efforts towards a more inclusive peace process. Ahead of the 2020 elections, the Office would reinforce the importance of all leaders in Myanmar, taking a resounding unified stance against incitement and hatred, an approach that needs to go together with promoting an electoral process that is widely inclusive, transparent and accessible so that it can serve as a nationally unifying event. The Special Envoy would aim to lead the efforts of the United Nations system so that national stakeholders and mechanisms are able to engage with various entities of the United Nations with the resources and tools available to support national reconciliation efforts.

9. To ensure close coordination with key stakeholders in Myanmar, the Office would remain in Nay Pyi Taw. The small presence in New York would allow for continued close consultations with Member States and help to build greater coherence and coordination in the overall engagement of the United Nations on Myanmar. The Special Envoy would also work closely with the United Nations country team in Myanmar on a range of activities relevant to her mandate. In addition, in carrying out its mandate, the Office would work in partnership with a wide range of actors within the United Nations system and among external partners. The Special Envoy would also maintain regular and close contact with interested Members States.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

10. The estimated costs of continuing the provision of the good offices of the Secretary-General, pursuing his discussions on human rights, democratic transition and reconciliation in Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and offering technical assistance through his Special Envoy, as requested in operative paragraphs 18 (a) and (b) of draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.29](#), for 2020 amount to \$1,073,000, net of staff assessment.

11. The resources would cover the salaries of the Special Envoy (Under-Secretary-General), a Head of Office (D-1), two Political Affairs Officers (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) and one Assistant (Local level), as well as other operational requirements. Other substantive support would be provided to the Special Envoy by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and other administrative support by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

12. The above-mentioned requirements have been included in the proposed programme budget for 2020 under Section 3, Political affairs, for special political missions ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#)).

V. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

13. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.29](#), resource requirements amounting to \$1,073,000, net of staff assessment, would be required for 2020 for the continuation of the Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar.

14. Approval for these requirements and appropriation is being sought in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2020 under section 3, Political affairs, for special political missions ([A/74/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#)), which is currently before the General Assembly.
