



# General Assembly

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**Seventieth session  
Fifth Committee**

Agenda items 134 and 72 (c)

**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**

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

## **Situation of human rights in Myanmar**

### **Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1**

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

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its 49th meeting, on 18 November 2015, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1, as orally revised, on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. The Committee was informed of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution in a statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/70/L.65).

#### **II. Requests contained in the draft resolution**

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1, 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 of Myanmar in this regard, bearing in mind the considerations contained in his report of 19 August 2015 relating to the future of the mandate of his Special Adviser on Myanmar;

(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 seventy-first session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

### **III. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017**

3. 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 2016-2017 (A/69/6/Rev.1).

### **IV. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented**

4. In his report to the General Assembly on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/70/332 and Corr.1), which covers the period from 7 August 2014 to 6 August 2015, the Secretary-General examined the human rights situation in Myanmar in the context of the ongoing democratization process in the country and highlighted the efforts of the United Nations in supporting the Government and people of Myanmar in their path towards further reform and development.

5. The Secretary-General continues to remain closely engaged, both personally and through his Special Adviser, with the Government and people of Myanmar. In addition, the United Nations system has provided technical, financial and programmatic assistance throughout the year to assist Myanmar in addressing important challenges in the fulfilment of its political, developmental, humanitarian and human rights goals. In the critical period leading up to the general elections, the United Nations remained committed to supporting Myanmar in its strenuous effort to build a democratic, peaceful and prosperous State for all its people.

6. Myanmar has come a long way in its reform process. The changes sweeping the country are unprecedented. Political reforms are gradually taking root and fundamentally transforming the country. The general elections that took place on 8 November 2015 mark a critical juncture in that process and will help to build confidence in the reform process and demonstrate the commitment of the Government to democracy. The period immediately after the elections promises to be one of change and uncertainty. It is the Secretary-General's hope that all political leaders in Myanmar will put aside narrow agendas and support the consolidation of democracy in the country. The behaviour of the Tatmadaw will also be critical to the process. The Special Adviser has continued to engage with the Tatmadaw and encourage it to play a constructive role on a range of issues, including political reform and national reconciliation efforts and the de-escalation of hostilities in the conflict areas. The United Nations remains ready to extend its continued support to Myanmar in these crucial times.

7. As the country geared up for the elections, there were deeply troubling signs of communal and religious differences being exacerbated and ultra-nationalistic and

chauvinistic sentiments building up within the country, some of them even directed towards the United Nations and the international community. As the Secretary-General has said previously, a unified message from the country's political leaders against incitement and hate speech is urgently needed. Over the longer term, appropriate legal structures and policy guidelines will also be needed, alongside the necessary developmental efforts, education and awareness-raising measures, to promote equality, non-discrimination and coexistence. In addition, the Secretary-General calls upon the authorities in Rakhine State to undertake determined and purposeful action to alleviate discriminatory practices against, and the humanitarian conditions of, the Rohingya in order to ensure for them a modicum of dignity and basic human rights.

8. In that context, the 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 coherent and coordinated country programme, the Secretary-General would like once again to invite Member States to assess the feasibility of the continuation of the good offices mandate during the coming year, including a gradual scaling-down of the mandate of the Special Adviser by the end of 2016, and to consider other regular modes of engagement with Myanmar. The elections of 8 November mark a new and decisive chapter in the transition to democracy. Meanwhile, all relevant United Nations entities, including the country team, the various funds and programmes and the Secretariat, will continue to support the country's efforts towards democratization and the fulfilment of human rights and development for all.

9. In 2016, consistent with the requests contained in paragraphs 20 (a) and (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1, 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 to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner. 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 seventy-first session.

## **V. Estimated resource requirements**

10. 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 offering technical assistance through his Special Adviser, as requested in paragraph 20 (a) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2016, amount to \$1,127,200, net of staff assessment.

11. Those 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.

12. The above-mentioned 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/70/348/Add.1).

13. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 20 (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1 pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the related requirements are considered of a perennial nature, and, accordingly, a provision of an estimated \$80,200 per annum for the implementation of the activities of the Special Rapporteur has been made under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

## **VI. Summary**

14. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1, resource requirements amounting to \$1,127,200 net of staff assessment would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.**

15. **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 General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/70/348/Add.1), which is currently before the Assembly.**

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