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Agenda items 138 and 21 (b)

Proposed programme budget for 2023

**Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to
the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked
Developing Countries**

Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.52](#)

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 25th meeting, on 23 November 2022, the Second Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.52](#) without a vote. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee ([A/C.2/77/L.76](#)).

II. Mandate contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 35, 36, 37, 51, 52, 54 and 57 of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.52](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Recall paragraph 78 of the Vienna Programme of Action on the holding of a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, towards the end of the decade, in order to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and decide to convene the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in the first half of 2024 for a duration of five days at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, in line with the mandate specified in resolution [76/217](#);

(b) Welcome and accept with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Rwanda to host the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in Kigali;



(c) Decide to convene two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in New York towards the end of 2023 and/or early in 2024, of no more than seven days in total;

(d) Stress, while recognizing the intergovernmental nature of the Conference, the importance of the effective well-structured and broad participation of all relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, in the Conference and its preparatory process, including national and regional reviews and thematic preparations, as well as in the interactive thematic round tables and side events during the Conference, underline that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process, and decide:

(i) To invite non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(ii) To invite other relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, other international bodies and other non-governmental organizations to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory process;

(iii) To request the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation and with due regard for gender parity and to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the Assembly, for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the Conference;

(e) Request the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to act, as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, pursuant to resolution [76/217](#), and invite the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure effective, efficient and timely preparations for the Conference and to further mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

(f) Request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in collaboration, and avoiding overlap and duplication with the Office of the High Representative, to take the measures necessary to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and its significance;

(g) Request the Secretary-General to present proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its current session with a view to ensuring that the Office of the High Representative has adequate capacity to support the Conference and its preparatory process and effectively implement the mandate for the subprogramme responsible for the landlocked developing countries.

III. Relationship between the mandate contained in the draft resolution and the proposed programme budget for 2023

3. The mandate contained in draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.52](#) requires additional deliverables and activities under the following programme plans of the proposed programme budget for 2023:

- (a) Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 2\)](#));
- (b) Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 10\)](#));
- (c) Programme 28, Global communications ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 28\)](#)).

IV. Deliverables and activities required to implement the mandate contained in the draft resolution

4. Pursuant to the mandate contained in the draft resolution, it is envisaged that:

- (a) The third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries would be convened in the first half of 2024 in Kigali, for a duration of five days at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government, along with interactive thematic round tables conducted in parallel;
- (b) Two sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee would be convened in New York towards the end of 2023 and/or early in 2024, of no more than seven days in total.

5. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate would require interpretation in all six official languages for one meeting on one day for the organizational session in 2023, seven meetings over three and a half days for the first session of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2023, seven meetings over three and a half days for the second session of the intergovernmental preparatory committee in 2024 and 18 meetings (inclusive of parallel meetings) over five days for the Conference in 2024. This would constitute an addition to the meetings workload of the Department in 2023 and 2024. With regard to documentation services in 2023, the requirements would consist of six pre-session documents with a total word count of 13,400 words, one in-session document with a word count of 1,000 words and one post-session document with a word count of 5,000 words, to be issued in all six official languages. For documentation services in 2024, the requirements would consist of eight pre-session documents with a total word count of 22,800 words, four in-session documents with a total word count of 34,700 words and two post-session documents with a total word count of 7,000 words, to be issued in all six official languages. These would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department in 2023 and 2024.

6. For the Office of the High Representative, the implementation of the mandate would require additional work to support the Conference and its intergovernmental preparatory committee, as follows:

- (a) To provide substantive support and organizational preparations and servicing of meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the committee of the whole and to contribute to the organization of thematic events and analytical substantive work so as to provide evidence-based information to feed into the preparations for the Conference;

(b) To support the increased need to process travel by representatives of landlocked developing countries to preparatory events, including the meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, pre-conference events and the Conference itself, and to support increased work to organize meetings, including preparing and sending invitation letters, following up with participants and providing administrative support for meetings;

(c) To provide specialized substantive support for the following expertise:

(i) Estimating the transit transport and trade costs of landlocked developing countries, assessing the changes in costs since 2014 and comparing those costs with those of neighbouring coastal countries, through economic modelling and the collection of extensive data to prepare estimates and provide details that could be used to assess the progress made in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action and identify policy implications that would feed into the Conference;

(ii) Generating a detailed understanding and estimation of the costs of being landlocked across all relevant economic, social and development-related dimensions as a crucial step in helping landlocked developing countries to overcome challenges and develop effective policies;

(iii) Preparing a report on a regional review of the status of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the Euro-Asia region, including identification of the progress made, best practices and lessons learned, as well as obstacles and constraints encountered and actions needed to overcome them, an explanation of what has worked well and what has not worked, identification of any emerging challenges and opportunities facing landlocked developing countries and proposed recommendations;

(iv) Preparing a report on a regional review of the status of implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in the Latin America region;

(d) To conduct a vigorous advocacy campaign leading up to the Conference to ensure wide publicity for the Conference, including by producing stories and films about the landlocked developing countries, in order to build a case for the special support needed, as well as to propose solutions. The stories would be used across multiple channels and would form the heart of a campaign to be conducted using United Nations-owned social media platforms and media outreach, working with the country missions to make their case.

7. For the Department of Global Communications, the implementation of the mandate would require additional work, including for webcasting, photography, meetings coverage services and press releases to cover the conference in 2024, as well as public information efforts to enhance public awareness of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and significance, through the network of United Nations information centres in 2023 and 2024.

V. Budgetary implications

A. Conference-servicing requirements

8. Details of the additional conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1
Additional resource requirements for conference services

(United States dollars)

	<i>Additional requirements 2023</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2024</i>	<i>Total additional requirements 2023–2024</i>
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management			
Other staff costs			
Interpretation services	75 700	225 400	301 100
Documentation services	63 500	204 200	267 700
Subtotal, section 2	139 200	429 600	568 800
Section 28, Global communications			
Contractual services			
Webcasting services	–	3 000	3 000
Photography services	–	7 400	7 400
Meetings coverage services	–	30 600	30 600
Public information through the United Nations information centres	12 500	12 500	25 000
Subtotal, section 28	12 500	53 500	66 000
Total	151 700	483 100	634 800

9. An additional amount of \$20,900 would be required in 2023 and \$64,400 in 2024 under section 36, Staff assessment.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

10. Details of the additional non-conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 2.

Table 2
Additional resource requirements for non-conference services

(United States dollars)

	<i>Additional requirements 2023</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2024</i>	<i>Total additional requirements 2023–2024</i>
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States			
Other staff costs	361 400	361 400	722 800
General temporary assistance (2 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) for 18 months (9 months each in 2023 and 2024)			
Consultants	80 000	–	80 000
Travel of staff	25 000	–	25 000
Three trips (one to Asia, one to Africa and one to Latin America) by one staff member per trip, for content-gathering (photography, filming and podcast recording)			

	<i>Additional requirements 2023</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2024</i>	<i>Total additional requirements 2023–2024</i>
Contractual services	5 000	25 000	30 000
Graphic design services and editing for package content and Conference branding			
Digital campaign highlighting issues faced by landlocked developing countries and the need for increased engagement			
Animation services to deliver digital content explaining unique circumstances facing landlocked developing countries and proposed solutions			
Supplies and materials	5 000	10 000	15 000
Conference-branded materials, including pins, information folders and a Kigali programme of action, in English and French			
Total	476 400	396 400	872 800

11. An additional amount of \$54,200 would be required in 2023 and \$54,200 in 2024 under section 36, Staff assessment.

VI. Summary of resource requirements

12. The budgetary implications for 2023 amount to \$628,100, excluding staff assessment, as shown in table 3.

Table 3

Additional resource requirements (before recosting)

(United States dollars)

	<i>Additional requirements 2023</i>	<i>Additional requirements 2024</i>	<i>Total additional requirements 2023–2024</i>
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	139 200	429 600	568 800
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	476 400	396 400	872 800
Section 28, Global communications	12 500	53 500	66 000
Section 36, Staff assessment	75 100	118 600	193 700
Total, including staff assessment	703 200	998 100	1 701 300

13. For 2024, the additional requirements of \$879,500, excluding staff assessment, comprising \$429,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, \$396,400 under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and \$53,500 under section 28, Global communications, would be included in the proposed programme budget for 2024.

VII. Potential for absorption during 2023

14. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for 2023 for the implementation of the mandate contained in the draft resolution. At this stage, it is

not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2023 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2023. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources be provided through an additional appropriation for 2023.

VIII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

15. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.52](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$703,200 would arise under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2023:

- (a) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$139,200);
- (b) Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (\$476,400);
- (c) Section 28, Global communications (\$12,500).

16. The total amount of \$628,100 would require an additional appropriation for 2023 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

17. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$75,100 would arise under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2023 and would require an additional appropriation by the General Assembly, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$75,100 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.
