



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
11 December 2019

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

**Fifth Committee**

Agenda item 135

**Proposed programme budget for 2020**

## **Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates follows the guidelines for the contingency fund contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution [42/211](#).
2. It will be recalled that the Secretary-General, in his report entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budget process” ([A/72/492/Add.1](#)), considered that an annual budget cycle would eliminate the need for a separate report on the budget outline. As the contingency fund was expressed as a percentage of the programme budget outline level approved by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General further proposed to submit an indication of the size of the contingency fund as a percentage of the overall level of resources of the proposed annual budget. In its resolutions [72/266 A](#) and section XI of its resolution [73/279 A](#), the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General’s proposal, including the level of the contingency fund for the programme budget for 2020 in the amount of \$21,794,200. Other provisions governing the use of the contingency fund contained in General Assembly resolutions [41/213](#) and [42/211](#) would remain unchanged.
3. Potential new charges, which amount to \$64,520,500, are detailed in the annex to the present report and exceed by \$42,726,300 the approved level of the contingency fund pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/279 A](#) of \$21,794,200. The potential charges indicated in respect of each item correspond to those recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions upon its consideration of individual statements and proposals for revised estimates.
4. It will be recalled that, during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994–1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination questioned the usefulness of designating high or low priorities at the level of output or activity and recommended that the practice be discontinued (see [A/48/16 \(Part II\)](#), para. 40). The General Assembly subsequently endorsed the recommendation of the Committee in its resolution [48/228](#), thus removing the identification of high- and low-



priority programme elements from the format of the programme budget. As the present format of the budget no longer contains priority-setting information approved by Member States, alternative options for the reallocation or reduction of resources between high- and low-priority mandated programme elements, including the deferral, termination and curtailment of mandated activities, would require General Assembly approval.

5. Total potential charges of \$64.5 million, as reflected in the table below, are based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions available at the time of the finalization of the present report.

#### **Breakdown of potential charges to the contingency fund, by budget section**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| <i>Budget section</i>   | <i>Amount<sup>a</sup></i> |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination   | 145.7                     |
| 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management   | 1 884.8                   |
| 16. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice   | 193.3                     |
| 18. Economic and social development in Africa   | 752.0                     |
| 19. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific   | 907.2                     |
| 21. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean  | 285.8                     |
| 24. Human rights  | 20 583.0                  |
| 27. Humanitarian affairs  | 6 454.6                   |
| 29B. Department of Operational Support  | 6 795.9                   |
| 29E. Administration, Geneva   | 80.5                      |
| 29G. Administration, Nairobi  | 1 565.4                   |
| 33. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance   | 22 353.5                  |
| 34. Safety and security   | 330.1                     |
| Statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly <sup>b</sup> | 2 188.7                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>64 520.5</b>           |

<sup>a</sup> Net of staff assessment.

<sup>b</sup> Pro-rated across budget sections on the basis of their distribution of resources for posts.

6. For the programme budget for 2021, it is proposed that the level of the contingency fund be established at 0.75 per cent of the approved programme budget for 2020.

7. **On the basis of the above and subject to further review by the General Assembly of the proposals of the Secretary-General and related recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Assembly is requested to consider the potential charges against the contingency fund as outlined above.**

8. **The Assembly is also requested to approve the level of the contingency fund for 2021, to be set at 0.75 per cent of the approved programme budget for 2020.**

## Annex

## Contingency fund-related proposals and potential charges

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| Level of the contingency fund pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/279 A (section XI)  |                                     |  |   | 21 794.2   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <i>Potential charges</i>   | <i>Secretary-General's proposal</i> | <i>Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions</i> | <i>Recommendations of the Fifth Committee</i> | <i>Potential charges to the contingency fund<sup>a</sup></i> |
| Progress on the replacement of blocks A to J at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (A/74/343)  | 10 490.1                            | —  | tbd   | 10 490.1   |
| Progress on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean in Santiago, Chile (A/74/330)  | 389.1                               | —  | tbd   | 389.1  |
| Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (A/74/317)  | 6 410.7                             | —  | tbd   | 6 410.7  |
| Progress in the renovation of Africa Hall and the construction of new office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (A/74/328)  | 8 434.1                             | —  | tbd   | 8 434.1  |
| Statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly | 2 188.7                             | tbd  | tbd   | 2 188.7  |
| Progress in the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters (A/74/345)   | 8 309.7                             | (1 513.8)  | tbd   | 6 795.9  |
| Possible renovation work aimed at addressing the deteriorating conditions and the limited capacity of the conference services facility at the United Nations Office at Nairobi   | 470.0                               | tbd  | tbd   | 470.0  |
| Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council   | 22 548.3                            | tbd  | tbd   | 22 548.3   |
| Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator   | 6 454.6                             | tbd  | tbd   | 6 454.6  |
| Programme budget implications: Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him  | 145.7                               | tbd  | tbd   | 145.7  |
| Programme budget implications: Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes   | 193.3                               | tbd  | tbd   | 193.3  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>66 034.3</b>                     | <b>(1 513.8)</b>   | <b>tbd</b>                                    | <b>64 520.5</b>  |
| <b>Shortfall</b>   |                                     |  |   | <b>(42 726.3)</b>  |

Abbreviation: tbd: to be determined.

<sup>a</sup> Net of staff assessment.