



# General Assembly

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## Sixty-eighth session

Items 9, 135 and 136 of the provisional agenda\*

### Report of the Economic and Social Council

#### Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

#### Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

## **Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013**

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

#### *Summary*

The present report details budgetary requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013. The additional requirements for the bienniums 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 arising from those resolutions and decisions are estimated at \$91,100, of which \$29,400 relates to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and \$61,700 to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. All of those requirements are expected to be absorbed within the resources approved for the biennium 2012-2013 and to be approved for the biennium 2014-2015 respectively and, therefore, no additional appropriation would be required from the General Assembly.

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\* A/68/150.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the additional requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013.
2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including those for which no provision had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and which would have an impact on the estimates of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with the statements of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of those resolutions and decisions.
3. In its report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 ([A/54/7/Add.2](#)), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions requested that future reports on the subject contain full cost estimates, including both conference and non-conference costs, of additional requirements. In response to that request, the additional requirements resulting from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2013 relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and those estimated to be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 are described below and summarized in the annex to the present report.
4. At its substantive session of 2013, the Council could not consider a number of agenda items and left them open for further consideration, which is expected to take place at its resumed substantive session, to be held before the end of 2013. If any related draft resolutions or decisions entail programme budget implications, the respective revised estimates would be issued as an addendum to the present report, as appropriate and if necessary.

## **II. Additional requirements and modifications to the programme of work entailed by resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council**

### **A. Resolution 2013/15: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

5. Under the terms of paragraphs 7, 8 and 10 of its resolution 2013/15, the Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Council in July 2014, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of

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<sup>1</sup> The programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 is contained in document A/66/6 (Introduction) and separate budget section documents (Sects. 1-37 and Income sects. 1-3) and related corrigendums. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 is contained in document A/68/6 (Introduction) and separate budget section documents (Sects. 1-36 and Income sects. 1-3) and related corrigendums.

Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

(b) Expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and requested him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

(c) Also requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 2014.

6. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of resolution 2013/15, it was expected that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would consist of travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for six members of the Group (Bahamas, Benin, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago) and two staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to conduct a consultation meeting with Bretton Woods institutions in 2014 and to undertake a mission to Haiti in April of the same year. Meeting support services in Haiti would also be required.

7. It may be recalled that in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational sessions and the substantive session of 2012 (A/67/503), which contained similar requests, the General Assembly was informed that the requirements for 2013, estimated at \$17,500, would be met from within the resources approved for section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

8. In 2013, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti undertook missions to Washington, D.C. and Haiti in April and May respectively, at a total cost of \$15,183. The total cost of the missions included: (a) support for travel of six members of the Group; and (b) meeting support services incurred in Haiti. The amount reflects the actual level of support provided to date to the Advisory Group.

9. The resource requirements to undertake the consultative missions to Haiti and Washington, D.C. in 2014 are estimated at \$17,900, for which provision has not been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This provision would cover (a) travel, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for members of the Advisory Group to Haiti and Washington, D.C. (\$15,900); and (b) meeting support services requirements in Haiti (\$2,000).

10. On the basis of experience thus far in the biennium 2012-2013 and in prior bienniums and taking further note that the Group would undertake missions to Haiti and Washington, D.C. in 2014, it is expected that the requirement of \$17,900 would be met from within the provisions made under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is requested as a result of the adoption of this resolution.

11. With respect to the provisions in paragraph 8 of the resolution requesting the Secretary-General to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources, the attention of the Council was drawn to the provisions in section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 66/246, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

## **B. Resolution 2013/24: Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**

12. Under the terms of paragraph 6 of its resolution 2013/24, the Economic and Social Council decided to hold, on an annual basis, a special meeting of the Council to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including, as appropriate, its contribution to mobilizing domestic financial resources for development, and the institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation.

13. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of resolution 2013/24, it was envisaged that the one-day annual special meeting of the Council to consider international cooperation in tax matters would comprise two three-hour meetings with interpretation in all six official languages. These meetings would constitute additions to the meeting-servicing workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. This would entail additional requirements in the amount of \$21,900 for meeting servicing for each year, starting in 2014, or \$43,800 for the biennium 2014-2015.

14. No additional documentation requirements were anticipated with regard to the request contained in paragraph 6.

15. All possible efforts would be made to absorb the additional requirements of \$43,800 arising for the biennium 2014-2015 within the provisions made under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is requested as a result of the adoption of this resolution.

## **C. Resolution 2013/45: United Nations Institute for Training and Research**

16. Under the terms of paragraph 2 of its resolution 2013/45, the Economic and Social Council took note that initial discussions have been held between the Secretary-General and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to explore the implications of the proposed consolidation of some United Nations entities dedicated to research, training and knowledge services, including the Institute, and, in this regard, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, within existing resources, a report on the ongoing consultations.

17. The Council was informed that, as a result of the adoption of resolution 2013/45, it was expected that the processing of the related report would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one document of 5,000 words, to be issued in all six official languages in 2013. This would entail additional conference servicing requirements in the amount of \$29,400 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and all possible efforts would be made to absorb these additional requirements within the resources approved under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Accordingly, no additional appropriation is requested as a result of adoption of this resolution.

18. With regard to the request in paragraph 2 of the resolution to submit to the General Assembly, within existing resources, a report on the ongoing consultations, the attention of the Council was drawn to the provisions of section IV of Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 64/243, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

### III. Overall requirements

19. The implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013 would give rise to additional requirements of \$29,400 for the biennium 2012-2013 and \$61,700 for the biennium 2014-2015, as shown in the table and annex below, all of which are expected to be absorbed within the relevant budget sections of the appropriations approved for 2012-2013 and proposed for 2014-2015. Therefore, the adoption by the General Assembly of the resolutions recommended by the Council at its substantive session of 2013 would not entail any additional appropriations under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

#### **Additional requirements under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

(United States dollars)

	2012-2013	2014-2015	Total
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	29 400	43 800	73 200
Section 9. Economic and social affairs	—	17 900	17 900
<b>Total</b>	<b>29 400</b>	<b>61 700</b>	<b>91 100</b>

#### **IV. Recommendations**

20. In summary, the implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2013 would give rise to additional requirements of \$91,100 that are expected to be absorbed under: (a) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (\$29,400); and (b) (i) section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$43,800); and (ii) section 9, Economic and social affairs (\$17,900) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Consequently, no additional appropriations are sought over and above the current level of funding of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

21. Should the actual requirements exceed the absorptive capacity of the aforementioned sections, the additional provisions would be reported in the context of the second performance reports for the bienniums 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.

## Annex

### Summary of additional requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational sessions and the substantive session of 2013

(United States dollars)

	<i>Budget section</i>	<i>Total additional requirements</i>	<i>Requirements to be absorbed in 2012-2013</i>	<i>Requirements to be absorbed in 2014-2015</i>
2013/15 Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	9	17 900	—	17 900
2013/24 Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters	2	43 800	—	43 800
2013/45 United Nations Institute for Training and Research	2	29 400	29 400	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>91 100</b>	<b>29 400</b>	<b>61 700</b>