



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session

Fifth Committee

Agenda items 134 and 69 (c)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

**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.3/68/L.55/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 47th meeting, on 19 November 2013, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.55/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 the statement submitted by the Secretary-General ([A/C.3/68/L.76](#)).

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of paragraph 16 of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1](#), the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance 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 sixty-ninth 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 2014-2015

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 2014-2015 ([A/67/6/Rev.1](#)).

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. In his report to the General Assembly ([A/68/331](#)), the Secretary-General outlined his continued broad-based consultations with the authorities and key stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, as well as with key Member States with regard to the implementation of his good offices mandate.

5. The Secretary-General recognized that Myanmar had witnessed dramatic changes as the reform measures initiated in 2011 continued to be pursued through the building of new institutions and the enactment of new laws in active sessions of the national parliament and regional assemblies, while steady progress had been achieved in national reconciliation through negotiations with erstwhile ethnic armed groups and encouragement of the voluntary return and resettlement of displaced populations. The Government had carried out a series of reform measures aimed at transforming the economy into an increasingly market-oriented economy, opened new sectors to foreign investment and trade and introduced measures to ensure greater transparency and to combat corruption.

6. The complex and evolving situation in Myanmar has required the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser to continue to implement good offices through comprehensive engagement with the authorities of Myanmar and other relevant stakeholders. Engagement in the political, humanitarian and socioeconomic areas has remained equally important in advancing the objectives of the good offices mandate. The Special Adviser has accordingly sought progress in five areas: (a) the release of political prisoners; (b) the pursuit of an inclusive dialogue between the Government and all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process, including those who are represented in Parliament and those who are not; (c) the creation of conditions conducive to an inclusive and credible political and electoral process; (d) measures to improve socioeconomic conditions by strengthening the partnership of the United Nations and Myanmar; and (e) a regularized pattern of engagement and cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations through the good offices process.

7. Notwithstanding the positive developments in Myanmar, which have created an opportunity to calibrate the approach of the good offices process, a number of

political, human rights, development and humanitarian problems remain. An issue of concern is communal tension in Rakhine State. It will be critical for the Government to follow up on the recent commitment of the President, Thein Sein, to release all remaining political prisoners soon and also to make further progress towards a nationwide ceasefire and political dialogue and in addressing the root causes of the situation in Rakhine.

8. The support of the General Assembly for the existing capacity of the Secretary-General's good offices role will therefore remain important in order to help the Government and other stakeholders to maximize the opportunities for greater democratization and national reconciliation through an inclusive political process. Member States continue to have a shared stake in the success of the current process in bringing about a credible transition that can contribute to the country's stability and development. The reform agenda and the transition process offer a chance for a better understanding between Myanmar and the international community, providing an opportunity for greater cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations in the interest of the people of Myanmar.

9. The Secretary-General will continue to work with all concerned to support the efforts of the Government and the people of Myanmar towards national reconciliation, the transition to democracy and full respect for human rights as the necessary foundation for long-term development, stability and prosperity. As part of its efforts to normalize relations with the Government of Myanmar, the United Nations has increased its activities in a number of areas, including with regard to assisting with preparations for the 2014 census and through a new country programme submitted to the United Nations Development Programme Executive Board in September 2012 and operationalized in 2013. The Office of the Special Adviser continues to play a central role in terms of the inter-agency and interdepartmental system-wide efforts at the working and senior levels in order to facilitate information-sharing and coordination in view of the importance of enhancing the Organization's response to the needs on the ground in a coherent and effective manner, taking into full consideration the wishes and needs of the national actors concerned.

10. In 2014, consistent with the requests contained in operative paragraphs 16 (a) and (b) of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1](#), the Secretary-General would continue efforts to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance in this regard. He will also continue to work in the direction of promoting communal harmony in Myanmar and help to address the question of the political, social and economic rights of the Rohingya community in Myanmar. The good offices efforts would be carried out by the 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 sixty-ninth session.

V. Estimated resource requirements

11. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Adviser for Myanmar, as requested in paragraph 16 of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1](#), for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2014, amount to \$1,363,400 net of staff assessment.

12. Those resources would cover the salaries of the Special Adviser (Under-Secretary-General) and four staff (2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 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.

13. The above 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/68/327/Add.1](#)) and would be charged against the provision for special political missions included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

14. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 16 (b), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the related requirements are considered to be of a perennial nature and, as such, an estimated amount of \$73,600 per annum to implement the activities of the Special Rapporteur has been provided under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

VI. Summary

15. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.55/Rev.1](#), resource requirements amounting to \$1,363,400 net of staff assessment would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014 for the continuation of the good offices efforts of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.**

16. **Those requirements would be charged against the provision for special political missions included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. Approval for those 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 Assembly and/or the Security Council ([A/68/327/Add.1](#)), which is currently before the Assembly for consideration during the main part of its sixty-eighth session.**