



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 June 2019

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Item 137 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2020

Letter dated 29 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request you to circulate my letter dated 24 April 2019 addressed to you on the so-called “international, impartial and independent mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011” (see annex) as a document of the General Assembly, under item 137 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia

* A/74/50.



Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 24 April 2019 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you regarding the proposed United Nations programme budget for 2020 and a method of funding of the so-called “mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011”.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution [71/248](#) of 21 December 2016, paragraph 32 of Assembly resolution [73/182](#) of 17 December 2018 and paragraph 35 of Assembly resolution [72/191](#) of 19 December 2017, and would kindly ask you to confirm my understanding that:

(a) Before the adoption of the above-mentioned resolutions by the General Assembly, you did not present for the consideration of the Fifth Committee any programme budget implications as required by rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly;

(b) The above-mentioned resolutions do not contain any reference to “assessed contributions”, the “United Nations regular budget” or the “United Nations programme budget” and do not have any financial implications to be reflected in the United Nations programme budget for 2020, and the term “budget proposal” used in two of them has the same meaning as in paragraph 19 (c) of your report [A/71/755/Add.1](#) of 16 August 2017 and paragraphs 45 (a), 47 (a) and 48 of your report [A/71/755](#) of 19 January 2017 and relates to the “mechanism’s” budget funded by voluntary contributions, i.e. from extrabudgetary sources.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**
