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Prevention of an arms race in outer space: further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

Proposed programme budget for 2023

Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.1/77/L.70](#)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Mandate contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11 of draft resolution [A/C.1/77/L.70](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts, with a membership of up to 25 Member States, chosen on the basis of fair and equitable geographical representation, to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space;

(b) Decide that the newly established Group of Governmental Experts will operate by consensus, without prejudice to national positions in future negotiations, and hold two 2-week sessions in Geneva, one in 2023 and the other in 2024;

(c) Request the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts to organize, in New York, a two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting, in 2024, so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views on the basis of a report on the work of the Group to be provided by the Chair in his own capacity;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to transmit the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2025 session.



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

2. The mandate contained in draft resolution [A/C.1/77/L.70](#) 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 3, Disarmament ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#));
- (c) Programme 25, Management and support services ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 29E\)](#)).

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

3. Pursuant to the mandate contained in operative paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts, with a membership of up to 25 Member States, would be established by the Secretary-General to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. The newly established Group of Governmental Experts would hold two 2-week sessions in Geneva, one in 2023 and the other in 2024. It is envisaged that the Chair of the Group of Governmental Experts would organize, in New York, a two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting, in 2024, so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views on the basis of a report on the work of the Group to be provided by the Chair in his own capacity. It is also envisaged that the Secretary-General would transmit the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and to the Conference on Disarmament prior to its 2025 session.

4. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate would require interpretation in all six languages for 20 meetings over 10 days for each of the sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts in Geneva in 2023 and 2024, as well as for 4 meetings over 2 days for the intersessional informal consultative meeting in New York in 2024. These would constitute an addition to the meetings workload of the Department for 2023 and 2024, and in accordance with established practice, the meeting dates would be determined in consultation with the Department. With regard to documentation services for the sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts in Geneva, for the session in 2023 the requirements of 4 pre-session documents with a total word count of 5,280 words, 25 in-session documents with a total word count of 25,080 words, and 1 post-session document with a word count of 10,700 words, to be issued in all six languages, would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department in 2023. For the session in 2024, the requirements of 3 pre-session documents with a total word count of 3,960 words, 25 in-session documents with a total word count of 25,080 words, and 1 post-session document with a word count of 10,700 words, to be issued in all six languages, would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department in 2024. The requirement for the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to the General Assembly and to the Conference on Disarmament of one pre-session document with a word count of 10,700 words, to be issued in all six languages, would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department in 2024.

5. For the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the implementation of the mandate would require provision for travel costs, daily subsistence allowance and terminal

expenses for up to 25 State representatives to attend the sessions in Geneva in 2023 and 2024, as well as the costs for a consultant to provide technical and substantive support to the substantive servicing of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts.

6. For the Department of Global Communications, the implementation of the mandate would require webcasting services for the two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting (each morning and afternoon) to be held in New York in 2024.

7. For the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the implementation of the mandate would require conference room set-up and videoconference service for the two-day open-ended intersessional informal consultative meeting (each morning and afternoon) to be held in New York in 2024.

8. For the United Nations Office at Geneva, the implementation of the mandate would require sound technicians and sound recording in the conference room during each of the two-week sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts in Geneva in 2023 and 2024, as well as Webex support to facilitate the remote participation of speakers during the 2023 session.

IV. Budgetary implications

A. Conference-servicing requirements

9. 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	184 000	206 600	390 600
Documentation services	139 500	168 100	307 600
Section 28, Global communications			
Contractual services			
Webcasting services	—	1 200	1 200
Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology			
Contractual services			
Information technology servicing of meetings	—	4 700	4 700
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva			
Other staff costs			
Sound technician/recording services	7 000	7 000	14 000
Webex support for remote participation	3 700	—	3 700
Total	334 200	387 600	721 800

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 4, Disarmament			
Consultants	26 800	26 800	53 600
Experts	200 100	204 200	404 300
Travel of staff	7 800	7 800	15 600
Total	234 700	238 800	473 500

11. An additional amount of \$50,000 would be required in 2023 under section 36, Staff assessment.

12. The requirements for 2024, in the amount of \$683,700, would be reflected under the following sections of the proposed programme budget for 2024:

- (a) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$374,700);
- (b) Section 4, Disarmament (\$238,800);
- (c) Section 28, Global communications (\$1,200);
- (d) Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology (\$4,700);
- (e) Section 29E, Administration, Geneva (\$7,000);
- (f) Section 36, Staff assessment (\$57,300).

V. Summary of resource requirements

13. The budgetary implications for 2023 amount to \$618,900, 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	323 500	374 700	698 200
Section 4, Disarmament	234 700	238 800	473 500
Section 28, Global communications	–	1 200	1 200
Section 29C, Office of Information and Communications Technology	–	4 700	4 700
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva	10 700	7 000	17 700
Section 36, Staff assessment	50 000	57 300	107 300
Total, including staff assessment	618 900	683 700	1 302 600

VI. 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.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

15. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.1/77/L.70](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$568,900 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 (\$323,500);**

(b) **Section 4, Disarmament (\$234,700);**

(c) **Section 29E, Administration, Geneva (\$10,700).**

16. **The total amount of \$568,900 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 \$50,000 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 \$50,000 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**
