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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Proposed programme budget for 2023

Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#)

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 22, 24, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 37 of draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Reaffirm its call to convene in 2024, the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States which will be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and decide that the international meeting will be convened in the second or third quarter of 2024 for a duration of no more than five days;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to ensure, by 2024, the allocation of adequate resources to respond to the expanding mandates of the small island developing States units of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in



support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States and the forthcoming fourth International Conference for Small Island Developing States and its preparatory process;

(c) Also decide that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

(d) Further decide that the Conference will result in an intergovernmentally agreed, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political outcome document;

(e) Decide to establish a preparatory committee to make the organizational, procedural and substantive preparations for the Conference, which will hold a one-day organizational session in the first half of 2023 and two sessions, of no more than five days each, in the first half of 2024, and also decide that the bureau of the preparatory committee shall consist of two members from each regional group, as well as ex officio members from the host country and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, and that the Committee shall elect two Co-Chairs from among the nominated bureau members, one from a developed State and one from a developing State;

(f) Decide that the preparatory committee, during its organizational session in the first half of 2023, will adopt decisions and, as appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly on the additional modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

(g) Agree that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

(i) Decide that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences.

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.2/77/L.55](#) 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 7, Economic and social affairs ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 9\)](#));
- (c) Programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 10\)](#)).

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

3. Pursuant to the mandate contained in the draft resolution, it is envisaged that:

(a) The fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States would be convened in the second or third quarter of 2024 for a duration of no more than five days in Antigua and Barbuda (see [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), operative paragraphs 22 and 23) at the highest possible level and would include a high-level segment, and would be aimed at assessing the ability of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) A one-day organizational session for the preparatory committee would be convened in the first half of 2023 and two sessions of the preparatory committee of no more than five days each would be convened in the first half of 2024.

4. For the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the implementation of the mandate would require interpretation in all six official languages for two meetings in one day for the organizational session in 2023, 10 meetings over five days for each of the two sessions of the preparatory committee in 2024, and 18 meetings (including parallel meetings) over five days for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2024. This would constitute an addition to the meetings workload of the Department in 2023 and 2024. With regard to documentation services in 2023, the requirements would comprise three pre-session documents with a total word count of 16,100 words to be issued in all six official languages. For documentation services in 2024, the requirements would comprise nine pre-session documents with a total word count of 31,100 words, six in-session documents with a total word count of 40,500 words and three post-session documents with a total word count of 12,000 words, to be issued in all six official languages. This would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department in 2023 and 2024.

5. For the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the implementation of the mandate would require one temporary position at the P-3 level for nine months in 2023 and nine months in 2024 to conduct additional activities to support the Conference and its preparatory committee, as follows:

- (a) To provide substantive support to the mandated preparatory committee for the Conference and its regional and interregional preparatory meetings;
- (b) To support the interdepartmental preparatory work for the Conference;
- (c) To analyse the more than 500 partnerships that are registered on the Department's small island developing States partnership database (including new partnerships announced during the Conference);
- (d) To organize a series of events to strengthen stakeholder engagement in the lead-up to the Conference;

(e) To support the organization of side events during meetings, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in 2023 and 2024, the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (United Nations 2023 Water Conference), the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, with the aim of ensuring that thematic topics of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States are in sync with other intergovernmentally agreed frameworks (notably the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030);

(f) Analyse the outcomes of the Conference with a view to providing initial guidance on their implementation.

6. For the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the implementation of the mandate would require the following:

(a) One temporary position at the P-3 level for nine months in 2023 and nine months in 2024 to conduct substantive and organizational preparations for and servicing of meetings of the intergovernmental preparatory committee, to contribute to the organization of regional and interregional meetings and to provide analytical substantive work to provide evidence-based information to feed into the preparations for the Conference;

(b) The conduct of a vigorous advocacy campaign leading up to the Conference to ensure wide publicity of the Conference and for layout and printing and information products for the website and social media, among other things.

IV. Budgetary implications

A. Conference-servicing requirements

7. 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	16 100	322 000	338 100
Documentation services	50 600	264 700	315 300
Subtotal, section 2	66 700	586 700	653 400
Total	66 700	586 700	653 400

8. An additional amount of \$10,000 would be required in 2023 and \$88,000 in 2024 under section 36, Staff assessment.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

9. 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 9, Economic and social affairs			
Other staff costs			
General temporary assistance (at the P-3 level for 18 months: 9 months each in 2023 and 2024)	142 600	142 600	285 200
Subtotal, section 9	142 600	142 600	285 200
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States			
Other staff costs			
General temporary assistance (at the P-3 level for 18 months: 9 months each in 2023 and 2024)	142 600	142 600	285 200
Travel of staff			
Trips to small island developing States by one staff member per trip for advocacy campaign	15 000	–	15 000
Consultancy services	20 000	25 000	45 000
Institutional consultancy for digital information campaign and partnership strategy	20 000	–	20 000
Institutional consultancy for campaign activation (including digital creative partnership and collaboration with United Nations information centres)	–	25 000	25 000
Supplies and materials			
Conference merchandise and printed materials	–	10 000	10 000
Subtotal, section 10	177 600	177 600	355 200
Total	320 200	320 200	640 400

10. An additional amount of \$42,800 would be required in 2023 and \$42,800 in 2024 under section 36, Staff assessment.

V. Summary of resource requirements

11. The budgetary implications for 2023 amount to \$386,900, excluding staff assessment, 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	66 700	586 700	653 400
Section 9, Economic and social affairs	142 600	142 600	285 200
Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	177 600	177 600	355 200
Section 36, Staff assessment	52 800	130 800	183 600
Total, including staff assessment	439 700	1 037 700	1 477 400

12. For 2024, the additional requirements of \$906,900, including \$586,700 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; \$142,600 under section 9, Economic and social affairs; and \$177,600 under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, would be included in the proposed programme budget for 2024.

VI. Potential for absorption during 2023

13. 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

14. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.2/77/L.55](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$386,900 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 (\$66,700);
- (b) Section 9, Economic and social affairs (\$142,600);
- (c) Section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (\$177,600).

15. The total amount of \$386,900 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.

16. Additional resource requirements in the amount of \$52,800 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 \$52,800 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.