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Agenda item 139

Programme planning

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2021

[on the report of the Fifth Committee ([A/76/615](#), para. 15)]

76/236. Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [37/234](#) of 21 December 1982, [38/227](#) A of 20 December 1983, [41/213](#) of 19 December 1986, [55/234](#) of 23 December 2000, [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001, [57/282](#) of 20 December 2002, [58/268](#) and [58/269](#) of 23 December 2003, [59/275](#) of 23 December 2004, [60/257](#) of 8 May 2006, [61/235](#) of 22 December 2006, [62/224](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/247](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/229](#) of 22 December 2009, [65/244](#) of 24 December 2010, [66/8](#) of 11 November 2011, [67/236](#) of 24 December 2012, [68/20](#) of 4 December 2013, [69/17](#) of 18 November 2014, [70/8](#) of 13 November 2015, [71/6](#) of 27 October 2016, [72/9](#) of 17 November 2017, [72/266](#) A of 24 December 2017, [72/266](#) B of 5 July 2018, section III of its resolution [72/262](#) C of 5 July 2018 and its resolutions [73/269](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/251](#) of 27 December 2019 and [75/243](#) of 31 December 2020,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [2008 \(LX\)](#) of 14 May 1976,

Recalling further the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,¹ by which the relevant programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed strategic framework shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its sixty-first session,² the reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2022: part II, proposed programme

¹ [ST/SGB/2018/3](#).

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/76/16)*.



plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020,³ and the letters and the annexes thereto from the Chairs of the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) dated 19 November 2021,⁴ the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (Third Committee) dated 16 November 2021⁵ and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) dated 12 November 2021⁶ addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee,

Having also considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives,⁷

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;
2. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in verifying that the programmes of activities of the Organization are implemented in line with the legislative mandates and that the full implementation of regulations and rules is ensured;
3. *Re-emphasizes* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees of the General Assembly in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;
4. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;
5. *Reiterates* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;
6. *Recalls* regulation 3.2, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and stresses the importance that the Fifth Committee make decisions on the programme budget in a timely manner;
7. *Recommends* that the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in accordance with its mandate, provide recommendations on all programmes of the proposed programme budget;
8. *Recalls* that the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall consider the proposed programme plans in accordance with its terms of reference, and

³ A/76/6 (Sect. 2), A/76/6 (Sect. 3), A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Corr.1, A/76/6 (Sect. 4), A/76/6 (Sect. 5), A/76/6 (Sect. 6), A/76/6 (Sect. 8), A/76/6 (Sect. 9), A/76/6 (Sect. 10), A/76/6 (Sect. 11), A/76/6 (Sect. 12), A/76/6 (Sect. 13), A/76/6 (Sect. 14), A/76/6 (Sect. 15), A/76/6 (Sect. 16), A/76/6 (Sect. 17), A/76/6 (Sect. 17)/Corr.1, A/76/6 (Sect. 18), A/76/6 (Sect. 19), A/76/6 (Sect. 20), A/76/6 (Sect. 21), A/76/6 (Sect. 22), A/76/6 (Sect. 24), A/76/6 (Sect. 25), A/76/6 (Sect. 26), A/76/6 (Sect. 27), A/76/6 (Sect. 27)/Corr.1, A/76/6 (Sect. 28), A/76/6 (Sect. 29), A/76/6 (Sect. 29A), A/76/6 (Sect. 29A)/Corr.1, A/76/6 (Sect. 29B), A/76/6 (Sect. 29C), A/76/6 (Sect. 29E), A/76/6 (Sect. 29F), A/76/6 (Sect. 29G), A/76/6 (Sect. 30), A/76/6 (Sect. 30)/Corr.1, A/76/6 (Sect. 31) and A/76/6 (Sect. 34).

⁴ A/C.5/76/21.

⁵ A/C.5/76/17.

⁶ A/C.5/76/14.

⁷ A/76/69.

appreciates the continuous efforts of the Committee to reach consensus on all programmes of the proposed programme budget;

9. *Also recalls* its resolution [72/266 A](#), in which it approved the change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to engage with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including programme managers and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, when preparing the report on the review of the changes to the budgetary cycle, including on the sequence of budgetary procedures and practices;

11. *Reaffirms* that no changes to the budget methodology, established budgetary procedures and practices or the financial regulations may be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly in accordance with established budgetary procedures;

12. *Expresses its support* for the efforts of the Secretariat to better engage and support programme managers with the aim of making the Organization more effective and results-oriented, and welcomes the commitment and ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to improve and update the programmatic aspects, including planned results, performance measures and external factors, of the programme budget;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that results and, where possible, performance measures actually reflect achievements and impacts in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 15 of its resolution [74/251](#), and reiterates its guidance to the Secretary-General to ensure that the terms and expressions referenced in the proposed programme plan have been intergovernmentally agreed;

15. *Notes* that decisions by the General Assembly regarding the approval of the programmes during the seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions were issued as addenda to the main reports, and requests the Secretary-General to use cost-effective ways to display the approved versions of the programme plans;

16. *Reiterates* that whenever the Committee for Programme and Coordination cannot provide conclusions and recommendations on a given subprogramme or programme of the proposed programme budget, the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly responsible for those mandates will consider the said subprogramme or programme at the very start of its session in order to provide any conclusions and recommendations to the Fifth Committee, at the earliest opportunity, and no later than four weeks after the start of the session, for timely consideration by the Fifth Committee;

17. *Notes* the increased size and volume of documentation that forms the proposed programme budget, and notes with appreciation that the Secretary-General continues his efforts to enhance the quality, clarity and usability of the proposed programme budget in consultation with Member States, while maintaining the level of information provided to Member States;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all the Main Committees have access on their Committee Places of the e-deleGATE portal, for information purposes, before the start of the session, to the latest report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to identify possible measures to enhance and support more effective work of the Committee for Programme and

Coordination, including in terms of the duration of its sessions and the capacity of the secretariat of the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, for the consideration of the General Assembly, and decides that the sixty-second session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall be extended to five weeks;

20. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed programme plan for 2022 and programme performance for 2020⁸ and on evaluation,⁹ contained in its report on the work of its sixty-first session, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the timely implementation of the recommendations;

21. *Approves*, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, for programmes 3, 7, 14, 20 and 23 of the proposed programme budget for 2022, a programme narrative that is composed solely of the list of mandates at the programme level and the objectives approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/6 and the deliverables for 2022 at the subprogramme level;

22. *Also approves*, on an exceptional basis and without creating a precedent, for programmes 1, 4, 24 and 28 of the proposed programme budget for 2022, a programme narrative that is composed solely of the list of mandates at the programme level and the objectives approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/243 and the deliverables for 2022 at the subprogramme level;

23. *Further approves* the programme plan for programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰

24. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2020,¹¹ on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development¹² and on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.¹³

*54th (resumed) plenary meeting
24 December 2021*

⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/76/16)*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, sect. B.

¹⁰ [A/76/6 \(Sect. 8\)](#).

¹¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/76/16)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹² *Ibid.*, sect. B.

¹³ *Ibid.*, chap. IV.