



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 June 2021

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session
Agenda item 141

Programme budget for 2021

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tsu Tang Terrence **Teo** (Singapore)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 141 are set out in the reports of the Committee contained in documents [A/75/682](#) and [A/75/682/Add.1](#).
2. During the second part of the resumed seventy-fifth session, the Fifth Committee met formally and remotely owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, during which it resumed its consideration of the item. The Committee formally resumed its consideration of the item in person at its 15th meeting, on 29 June 2021. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's formal consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record.¹
3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Progress in the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters

Progress report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/342/Add.1](#) and [A/75/342/Add.1/Corr.1](#))

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/75/7/Add.42](#))

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session

Report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/845](#) and [A/75/845/Corr.1](#))

¹ [A/C.5/75/SR.15](#).



Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/75/7/Add.41](#))

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.49](#)

4. At its 15th meeting, on 29 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Special subjects relating to the programme budget for 2021” ([A/C.5/75/L.49](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representatives of Austria and Ghana.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.49](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for 2021

The General Assembly,

I

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session

Recalling its resolution [75/245](#) B of 16 April 2021,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. *Appropriates* an additional amount of 212,000 United States dollars (non-recurrent) under section 29A, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, of the programme budget for 2021;
4. *Also appropriates* an additional amount of 25,200 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2021;

II

Progress on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters

Recalling section V of its resolution [67/246](#) of 24 December 2012, section III of its resolution [67/254](#) A of 12 April 2013, section IV of its resolution [68/247](#) B of 9 April 2014, section VII of its resolution [69/274](#) A of 2 April 2015, section XVI of its resolution [71/272](#) A of 23 December 2016, section XI of its resolution [72/262](#) A of 24 December 2017, section VI of its resolution [73/279](#) A of 22 December 2018, section IX of its resolution [74/263](#) of 27 December 2019 and section XIII of its resolution [75/253](#) A of 31 December 2020,

Having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters³ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,⁴

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Notes with appreciation* the realization of efficiencies from the implementation of the flexible workplace project at United Nations Headquarters,

¹ [A/75/845](#) and [A/75/845/Corr.1](#).

² [A/75/7/Add.41](#).

³ [A/75/342/Add.1](#) and [A/75/342/Add.1/Corr.1](#).

⁴ [A/75/7/Add.42](#).

including the additional capacity of 1,291 in the Secretariat Building, and the project's full return on investment by 2021;

4. *Recalls* paragraphs 13 and 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly during the seventy-eighth session a comprehensive report that provides a forward-looking assessment of the workplace at United Nations Headquarters and that covers, inter alia, the evolving needs of the Organization, findings from the ongoing work to define future work modalities, lessons learned from the flexible workplace project and the experience of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the impact of any new work modalities, including with respect to flexible work arrangements, the Secretary-General's strategic assessment and cost-benefit analysis of the Organization's real estate portfolio in New York, implications for other United Nations offices, the realization of additional efficiency gains, considerations related to productivity, health and occupational safety and staff well-being, and proposals on any future flexible workforce needs, including costs and benefits, and that is considered in conjunction with an evaluation conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the completed flexible workplace project to be presented at the same session;

5. *Takes into account* the amount of 145,700 dollars already appropriated by the General Assembly for 2021 for the project, and approves an additional appropriation in the amount of 237,200 dollars, comprising 192,600 dollars under section 29B, Department of Operational Support, and 44,600 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for 2021, to fund project management resources in the amount of 352,900 dollars for one P-5 position until December 2021 and one General Service (Other level) position until August 2021 to carry out the remaining project activities, as well as 30,000 dollars for post-occupancy surveys for all floors completed in 2019 and 2020.
