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Agenda items 70 (b) and 141

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination,
xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive
implementation of and follow-up to the Durban
Declaration and Programme of Action**

Proposed programme budget for 2021

A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

**Programme budget implications of draft resolution
[A/C.3/75/L.50/Rev.1](#)**

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

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 13, 15, 28, 29, 30 and 35 of draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.50/Rev.1](#), the General Assembly would:

(a) Welcome the decision to establish the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, which will serve as a consultation mechanism for people of African descent and other interested stakeholders as a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent and to contribute to elaborating a United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent, and that the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum will be concluded by Member States and observer States, with further consultations with people of African descent (para. 13);

(b) Also welcome the constructive discussions held in Geneva on the modalities of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, regret that the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum



could not be defined during its seventy-fourth session owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, decide to define them, with no further delay, at its seventy-fifth session, and request the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators in that regard (para. 15);

(c) Decide to hold a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, at the level of Heads of State and Government, on the second day of the general debate of the seventy-sixth session, on the theme “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”, consisting of an opening plenary meeting, consecutive round tables and/or thematic panels and a closing plenary meeting (para. 28);

(d) Also decide that the meeting will adopt a short and concise political declaration aimed at mobilizing political will at the national, regional and international levels for the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up processes (para. 29);

(e) Request the President of the General Assembly, consistent with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to carry out consultations on the modalities of the high-level meeting and to appoint co-facilitators for the political declaration (para. 30);

(f) Also request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat to launch a public information campaign for the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including the wide distribution of user-friendly information materials through the United Nations system, inter alia, through United Nations information centres (para. 35).

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the proposed programme budget for 2021

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, programme 20, Human Rights, and programme 24, Global Communications, of the proposed programme plan for the period 2021, and to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ([A/75/6 \(Sect.2\)](#)), section 24, Human rights ([A/75/6 \(Sect.24\)](#)), and section 28, Global Communications ([A/75/6 \(Sect.28\)](#)), of the proposed programme budget for 2021.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 13 and 15 of the draft resolution, it is understood that the President of the General Assembly would appoint co-facilitators, who would, after their appointment, start consultations on the modalities, format and other aspects of the Permanent Forum.

4. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 of the draft resolution, a one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action would be held on the second day of and in parallel to the general debate of the seventy-sixth session in New York. Furthermore, a short and concise political declaration would be adopted at the meeting. These would require the services of the Department

for General Assembly and Conference Management in 2021. It is understood that the President of the General Assembly would carry out consultations on the modalities of the high-level meeting and appoint co-facilitators on the political declaration.

5. It is envisaged that four experts would be invited to participate in the plenary meetings and the round tables and/or thematic panels of the one-day high-level meeting. The experts would consist of the relevant human rights mandate holders: the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. It is also envisaged that the Department of Global Communications would provide webcasting services to support the high-level meeting.

6. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 35, the Department of Global Communications would also, in support of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, produce new videos and multimedia content featuring inspiring local stories; design and create a website dedicated to the anniversary in English, which would be translated into the other five official languages; develop and roll out multilingual social media campaign; and provide seed funding to United Nations information centres to carry out public information and outreach activities in support of the commemoration.

7. The request contained in operative paragraph 35 to launch a public information campaign, including the wide distribution of user-friendly information materials through the United Nations system, is similar to a request made by the Human Rights Council at its forty-fifth session. In its resolution HRC/RES/45/23, the Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to, inter alia, prepare public information materials on the twentieth anniversary, to be disseminated at various events, through United Nations information centres and the website of OHCHR and of other United Nations entities. The requirements related to the request in resolution HRC/RES/45/23 have already been integrated into the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2020 ([A/75/588](#)), which are to be considered by the General Assembly during the main part of its seventy-fifth session. The activities related to the public information campaign laid out in document [A/75/588](#) would be undertaken by the Department of Global Communications and are complementary to those of OHCHR.

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

A. Conference-servicing requirements

8. With regard to operative paragraphs 13 and 15, it is not possible at the present time to estimate the potential cost implications of requirements for the Permanent Forum under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. Upon decision on the modalities, format and substantive and procedural aspects of the Permanent Forum, the Secretary-General would submit the relevant costs of such requirements, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly.

9. With regard to operative paragraphs 28, 29 and 30, it is not possible at the present time to estimate the potential cost implications of requirements for the high-level meeting under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management. Upon decision on the modalities and format of the high-level meeting, the Secretary-General would submit the relevant costs of such requirements, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

10. With regard to operative paragraph 28, it is estimated that a total non-recurrent amount of \$23,300 would be required to cover travel and daily subsistence allowance expenses for the mandate holders attending the one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly. An additional amount of \$8,500 would be required to cover webcasting services.

11. With regard to operative paragraph 35, it is estimated that a total non-recurrent amount of \$230,500 would be required to cover the production and dissemination of short multimedia series of positive stories, comprising an explainer or curtain-raiser (\$25,000); a film to promote the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and the International Decade for People of African Descent (\$10,000); in-depth feature stories focusing on different regions in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and possibly Europe (\$50,000); the design and creation of the website in English dedicated to the anniversary, which would be translated into the other five official languages (\$17,500); the development and dissemination of a social media strategy and content, including multilingual social media assets (\$98,000); and seed money to United Nations information centres to carry out public information and outreach activities implementing the public information campaign for the commemoration of the anniversary in the United Nations global network (\$30,000).

12. Details of the additional non-conference-servicing requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1

Additional non-conference-servicing requirements for 2021

(United States dollars)

	<i>2021 requirements</i>
Section 24, Human Rights	
Travel of representatives (four mandate holders to attend the one-day high-level meeting)	23 300
Subtotal, section 24	23 300
Section 28, Global Communications	
Other staff costs (webcasting of one-day high-level meeting)	6 400
Contractual services:	
Webcasting of one-day high-level meeting	2 100
Printing and web services for information campaign	200 500
Subtotal, contractual services	202 600
Supplies and materials (seed funding to United Nations information centres for public information campaign)	30 000
Subtotal, section 28	239 000
Section 36, Staff assessment	
Staff assessment (related to general temporary assistance resources under section 28, Global communication)	600
Subtotal, section 36	600
Total	262 900

V. Summary of resource implications

13. A summary of the additional resource requirements for 2021 is provided in table 2 below.

Table 2

Summary of additional resource requirements (sections 2, 24, 28 and 36)

(United States dollars)

	<i>2021 requirements</i>
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ^a	
Section 24, Human Rights	23 300
Section 28, Global Communications	239 000
Subtotal, sections 24 and 28	262 300
Section 36, Staff assessment	600
Subtotal, section 36	600
Total	262 900

^a Owing to pending decisions on modalities, it is not possible at the present time to estimate the potential cost implications of requirements related to section 2.

VI. Potential for absorption

14. No provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for 2021 for the implementation of the activities requested in the draft resolution. At this stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2021 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during 2021. It is therefore necessary for additional resource requirements in the amount of \$262,900 to be provided through an additional appropriation for 2021.

VII. Contingency fund

15. In its resolution [72/266 A](#), the General Assembly approved the proposal of the Secretary-General to continue to apply, in the context of the annual budget, the provisions governing the contingency fund established in its resolutions [41/213](#) and [42/211](#).

VIII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

16. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution [A/C.3/75/L.50/Rev.1](#), additional resource requirements in the amount of \$262,300 for 2021 would arise under the proposed programme budget for 2021, including \$23,300 under section 24, Human Rights, and \$239,000 under section 28, Global Communications. The Assembly would be requested to approve additional appropriations in the amount of \$262,300, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

17. The General Assembly would also be requested to appropriate an additional amount of \$600 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.