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Programme budget for 2021

Proposed programme budget for 2022

Report of the Human Rights Council

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth regular sessions, and at its thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second special sessions

Thirty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2022

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the advance report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth regular sessions, and at its thirtieth, thirty-first and thirty-second special sessions ([A/76/524](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses on 9 December 2021.

II. Financial implications arising from the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council

2. The estimated resource requirements arising from 62 resolutions and 2 decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its forty-sixth to forty-eighth regular sessions and at its thirtieth to thirty-second special sessions, which were all held in 2021, amount to \$55,013,000, as follows (see also [A/76/524](#), summary):

(a) \$10,523,200 for activities of a perennial nature, which have already been included in the programme budget for 2021, in the amount of \$5,261,600, and in the proposed programme budget for 2022, in the amount of \$5,261,600;



(b) \$44,489,800 for new requirements not included in the programme budget for 2021 and the proposed programme budget for 2022, as follows:

(i) \$14,630,400, of which the Advisory Committee, in June 2021, provided its concurrence for resources for 2021 pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/255](#) on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in the amount of \$8,561,900 for six commitment authorities; as at 31 October 2021, it was projected that an estimated amount of \$6,657,400, would be expended in 2021 against the six commitments. \$4,261,400 would be absorbed and the expenditure would be reported in the context of the financial performance report on the programme budget for 2021 (see also paras. 12–33 and table below).

3. The new requirements of \$29,859,400 in the proposed programme budget for 2022, proposed to be appropriated and representing a charge against the contingency fund for 2022, would comprise: (a) \$3,259,700 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; (b) \$26,499,200 under section 24, Human rights; (c) \$9,000 under section 28, Global communications; and (d) \$91,500 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva.

4. An additional appropriation is proposed in the amount of \$2,751,400 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

5. With respect to the work output of the Human Rights Council, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that (a) resolutions are formal expressions of the opinion or the will of United Nations organs, and represent the position of the Council on particular human rights issues and situations, focusing on country-specific or thematic human rights issues; and (b) decisions pertain to procedural matters with respect to elections, appointments, time and place of future sessions, and the recording of the adoption of a text representing the consensus of the members of a given organ.

6. With respect to the types of Human Rights Council mandates, the Advisory Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with the following information:

(a) Mandates of a perennial nature are time-limited mandates, and their renewal is anticipated. In order to reduce the budgetary implications of the renewals of such mandates, the related requirements are included in the proposed programme budget in anticipation of their renewal. However, any mandate of a perennial nature that is renewed during the budget year, is included in the revised estimates report. The amounts of the requirements are reported but do not contribute to a request for additional appropriation due to the fact that the request was already included in the proposed programme budget. Also, in its resolution [41/213](#), the General Assembly decided that the programme budget shall include expenditures of a perennial nature;

(b) Open-ended mandates, or ongoing mandates, are not time limited and do not need renewals. The requirements for such mandates are included in the proposed programme budget. Also, open-ended mandates are only included in the revised estimates report if related additional requirements are requested. In such instances, only the additional requirements are reported and included in the request for additional appropriation;

(c) One-time mandates pertain to mandates, which might be renewed in some instances, for the implementation of a single activity;

(d) Renewable mandates, which are in principle considered one-time mandates, are renewed but not included in the proposed programme budget and instead included in the revised estimates report. For example, resolution [46/22](#), Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, is considered a one-time

mandate but has been renewed 10 times albeit without expectation that it will be renewed indefinitely.

Financial resources for 2021 and 2022

7. The totality of the requirements for 2021 and 2022 resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council at its regular and special sessions in 2021 are presented in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/76/524).

General temporary assistance positions

8. As indicated in the revised estimates report, as additional requirements in 2022, a total of 171 general temporary assistance positions are proposed, of these, 8 are for a duration of 12 months and 163 for fewer than 12 months, while 256 general temporary assistance of various durations would be on board throughout 2021. In section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, a total of nine general temporary assistance positions are proposed (see also A/76/7, para. VI.12).

Proposed establishment of 39 new posts

9. A total of 39 posts are proposed for establishment as of 1 January 2022, as follows: resolution 46/22, Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic: 1 P-3; resolution 47/21 Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality: 13 (3 P-4, 9 P-3, 1 General Service (Other level)); resolution 48/14, Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change: 1 P-3; and resolution S-30/1, Ensuring respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel: 24 (1 P-5, 8 P-4, 9 P-3, 4 P-2, 2 General Service (Other level)) (see para. 33 below).

Expenditure patterns for 2021

10. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with monthly actual and projected expenditures for 2021 for section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 24, Human rights, section 28, Global communications, and section 29E, Administration, Geneva. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on expenditures incurred in 2021 will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report (see para. 34 below).**

11. The Advisory Committee recalls that it provided its concurrence for commitment authorities for resources in 2021 pertaining to six Human Rights Council resolutions and was provided, upon enquiry, with related projected expenditure, as at 31 October 2021 (see table).

Concurrence by the Advisory Committee for commitments^a in 2021 and estimated expenditure for 2021

Human Rights Council resolution		Concurrence provided by the Advisory Committee for commitment ceiling amount (United States dollars)	Estimated total expenditure for 2021 (as at 31 October 2021) (United States dollars)	Estimated variance between concurrence and projected expenditure (United States dollars)	Estimated utilization of commitment ceiling amount (percentage)
Resolution number	Title of resolution	(1)	(2)	(3)=(2)-(1)	(4)=(2)/(1)
46/22	Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	3 848 100	3 127 400	(720 700)	81.2
46/1	Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka	305 700	300 500	(5 300)	98.3
46/2	Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua	262 400	243 800	(18 600)	92.9
46/20	Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath	1 013 000	707 500	(305 500)	69.8
46/17	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	697 600	521 900	(175 700)	74.8
46/23	Situation of human rights in South Sudan	2 435 100	1 756 400	(678 700)	72.1
Total		8 561 900	6 657 400	(1 904 500)	77.78 (total utilization rate)

^a See also A/76/524, annex I.

12. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in the financial performance report, the final expenditure against the commitment authorities, currently estimated at \$6,657,400, would be presented against the amount of \$8,561,900 granted under the relevant programme budget sections. If the total expenditure under the regular budget is lower than the appropriation, no additional appropriation would be requested. But if the final total expenditure is higher, then an additional appropriation would be requested in the financial performance report for the programme budget. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further clarifications will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report (see para. 13 below). The Committee also notes that, as indicated in annex I to the report by the Secretary-General on revised estimates, the resource requirements for 2021 in the amount of \$4,261,400 for resolutions 46/14, 46/21, 46/29, 46/30, 47/13, 47/21, 48/16, 48/20, 48/22,¹ 48/25, S-30/1, S-31/1 and S-32/1, and decision 47/114² would be accommodated within the approved appropriation (see also para. 2 (b) above).**

¹ Note: Resolution 48/22 also has a portion absorbed for section 2.

² Resolution 46/14, Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; resolution 46/21, Situation of human rights in Myanmar; resolution 46/29, Technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan; resolution 46/30, Cooperation with Georgia; resolution 47/13, Situation of human rights in the Tigray region of Ethiopia; resolution 47/21, Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality; resolution 48/16, Situation of human rights in Burundi; resolution 48/20, Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; resolution 48/22, Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; resolution 48/25, Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya; resolution S-30/1, Ensuring respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel; resolution S-31/1, Strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan; and resolution S-32/1, Situation of human rights in the Sudan; and decision resolution 47/114, Strengthening documentation within the Human Rights Council.

13. The Advisory Committee notes that the total utilization rate for the above-mentioned six commitment authorities is projected at the level of 77.78 per cent for 2021 and recalls that the reverse situation occurred during the previous year, with an overexpenditure for most activities. The Committee notes that its concurrence for entering into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/255, is provided for a maximum ceiling amount, as requested by the Secretary-General, for the financing of an activity. The Committee reiterates that the Secretary-General should ensure that the requests for the Committee's concurrence for commitment authorities are accurate and based on realistic budgeting assumptions (see also A/75/7/Add.30, para. 10).

14. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee notes that the requirements under the revised estimates include the preliminary resources without factoring the actual expenditure status. Taking into consideration the expenditures of the commitment authorities and in the programme budget under section 24, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to budget resource requirements according to the real needs, as appropriate (see A/76/347, para. 35, annex I and table 4).

Resolution 46/1, Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka

15. With respect to resolution 46/1: (i) for 2021 an amount of \$736,500 was proposed, and (ii) for 2022, new requirements of \$2,119,800 are proposed (section 2: \$55,400, section 24: 2,064,400; all non-recurrent). This would result in a total projected amount pertaining to resolution 46/1 of \$2,856,300. The Advisory Committee notes that of the \$305,700 provided under commitments in 2021 against the requirement of \$736,500, an expected expenditure of \$300,500, or an underexpenditure of \$5,200 (1.7 per cent) is projected, and an estimated amount of \$300,500 would be considered in the context of the performance report of the programme budget for 2021. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the expenditure incurred against the commitment authority for 2021 and projected in the context of the performance report will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

16. The report includes the following general temporary assistance proposals: (a) one continuing position, namely, Human Rights Officer (P-4) (nine months in 2021 and nine months in 2022); and (b) 12 new positions, namely, one Senior Legal Adviser (P-5); two Legal Advisers (P-4); two Analysts (P-3); two Investigators/Human Rights Officers (P-3); one Information and Evidence Officer (P-3); one Victim Support Officer (P-3); two Juris-Linguists (P-2) and one Programme Assistant (General Service (Other level)). All were new positions for three months in 2021, and nine months in 2022.

17. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its subsequent concurrence letter dated 7 June 2021, addressed to the Secretary-General, it was of the view that, considering the recruitment time and that the new positions are requested for three months only, the following positions should be adequate to commence initial operations in accordance with the mandate: (a) one Legal Adviser (P-4), (b) one Investigator/Human Rights Officer (P-3), and (c) one Information and Evidence Officer (P-3). The Committee also stated that the remaining nine new positions, if required, would be presented in the context of the revised estimates report (Advisory Committee letter to the Secretary-General (AC/2161)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with an incumbency table showing that, as at November 2021, only the Human Rights Officer (P-4) position is encumbered, while the Legal Adviser (P-4), Investigator/Human Rights Officer (P-3), Information and Evidence Officer (P-3), and the Programme Assistant (General Service) positions are still under

recruitment. **Taking into account the expenditure patterns of the commitment authority, in particular the status of recruitment, the Advisory Committee recommends for 2022 against the continuation of the general temporary positions of one Legal Adviser (P-4), one Analyst (P-3), one Investigator/Human Rights Officer (P-3) and one Juris-Linguist (P-2). Furthermore, the Committee recommends the continuation of the new positions for six months in 2022.**

Resolution 46/2, Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua

18. With respect to resolution 46/2: (i) for 2021 an amount of \$299,600 was proposed, and (ii) for 2022, new requirements of \$128,500 (section 2: \$27,700, section 24: \$100,800; all non-recurrent) are proposed. This would result in a total projected amount pertaining to resolution 46/2 of \$428,100. The Committee notes that of the \$262,400 provided under commitments in 2021 against the requirement of \$299,600, an expected expenditure of \$243,700, or an underexpenditure of \$18,700 (7.1 per cent) is projected, and an estimated amount of \$243,700 would be considered in the context of the performance report of the programme budget for 2021. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the expenditure incurred against the commitment authority for 2021 and projected in the context of the performance report will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

19. The report indicates that two general temporary assistance positions would be required for nine months in 2021 and three months on 2022, namely, one Human Rights Officer (P-4), located in Panama, and one Human Rights Officer (P-3), located in Geneva. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its subsequent concurrence letter dated 7 June 2021, addressed to the Secretary-General, it was indicated that the length of the general temporary assistance position of P-3 Human Rights Officer for nine months in 2021, should be reduced by three months, to six months. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with an incumbency table showing that, as at November 2021, one Human Rights Officer (P-3) position is encumbered, and the other Human Rights Officer (P-4) position is under recruitment. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the recruitment status of the vacant position will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report.**

Resolution 46/20, Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath

20. With respect to resolution 46/20: (i) for 2021 an amount of \$1,794,700 was proposed, and (ii) for 2022, new requirements of \$768,200 (section 2: \$27,700, section 24: 740,500; all non-recurrent) are proposed. This would result in a total projected amount pertaining to resolution 46/20 of \$2,562,900. The Advisory Committee notes that of the \$1,013,000 provided under commitments in 2021 against the requirement of \$1,794,700, an expected expenditure of \$707,500, or an underexpenditure of \$305,500 (30.2 per cent) is projected, and an estimated amount of \$707,500 would be considered in the context of the performance report of the programme budget for 2021. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the expenditure incurred against the commitment authority for 2021 and projected in the context of the performance report will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

21. As indicated in the report, three pro bono experts would be supported by a team of 16 staff, based in Geneva and funded under general temporary assistance, for six or seven months in 2021 and two or three months in 2022, as follows: one Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5); one Fact-Finding Team Leader (P-4); one Human Rights Officer/Analysis and Reporting Officer (P-4); one Human Rights Officer/Legal

Adviser (P-4); one Gender/Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Adviser (P-4), seconded by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); one Media Adviser (P-4) (2 months in 2022); three Human Rights Officers/ Investigators (P-3); one Open Source Investigator (P-3); one Evidence and Information Review Officer (P-3); one Security Sector Adviser (P-3); one Child Rights Expert/Human Rights Investigator (P-3), seconded by UN-Women; two Interpreters (P-2); and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)).

22. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its subsequent concurrence letter dated 7 June 2021, addressed to the Secretary-General, the Committee was not fully convinced of the need for an Open-Source Investigator (P-3) at this stage, and was of the view that any related tasks could be undertaken within existing resources by other functions, including by the Fact-Finding Team Leader (P-4) and the Evidence and Information Officer (P-3). The Committee also stated that the function of Media Adviser (P-4) should be undertaken by other staff with the required substantive expertise, under the supervision of the Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5) (Advisory Committee letter to the Secretary-General (AC/2158)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with an incumbency table showing that: (a) eight positions were encumbered (1 Senior Human Rights Officer/Coordinator (P-5), 3 Human Rights Officers (P-4), 3 Human Rights Officers (P-3), 1 Administrative Assistant (General service); (b) two positions were under recruitment (1 Evidence and Information Review Officer (P-3); 1 Security Sector Adviser (P-3)); and (c) six positions were vacant (1 Gender/Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Adviser (P-4), seconded by UN-Women (see para. 34 below); 1 Human Rights Officer (P-3), 1 Open-Source Investigator (P-3) and 2 Interpreters (P-2); the aforementioned Media Adviser (P-4) was not being recruited). **With respect to the Media Adviser (P-4), the Advisory Committee reiterates that the functions should be undertaken by other staff with the required substantive expertise and recommends against the position. Furthermore, the Committee continues to be of the view that the functions of the Open-Source Investigator (P-3) position can be performed within existing resources and recommends, for 2022, against the position at this stage. The Committee trusts that updated information on the recruitment status of vacant positions will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Resolution 46/17, Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

23. With respect to resolution 46/17: (i) for 2021 an amount of \$744,500 was proposed, and (ii) for 2022, new requirements of \$1,076,600 under section 24 are proposed. This would result in a total projected amount pertaining to resolution 46/17 of \$2,409,200. The Advisory Committee notes that of the \$697,600 provided under commitments in 2021 against the requirement of \$744,500, an expected expenditure of \$521,900, or an underexpenditure of \$175,700 (25.2 per cent) is projected, and an estimated amount of \$521,900 would be considered in the context of the performance report of the programme budget for 2021. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the expenditure incurred against the commitment authority for 2021 and projected in the context of the performance report will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

24. The report indicates that a team of six staff, funded under general temporary assistance is required for 9 months in 2021, 12 months in 2022, and 3 months in 2023, would comprise: one Legal Officer (P-4), 1 Legal Officer/Analyst (P-3), one National Legal Officer, one National Legal Interpreter, based in Seoul; one Information and

Evidence Officer (P-3), based in Geneva and one Outreach Officer (National Professional Officer), based in Seoul.

25. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its subsequent concurrence letter dated 7 June 2021, addressed to the Secretary-General, it was stated that the Committee was informed by the Secretariat that the average recruitment time for positions with investigative bodies was three to four months. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with an incumbency table showing that: (a) four positions were encumbered (1 Legal Officer/Analyst (P-3), 1 Information/Evidence Officer (P-3); 1 National Legal Officer; and 1 National Legal Interpreter); and (b) two positions were under recruitment (1 Legal Adviser (P-4); 1 National Outreach Officer). **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the recruitment status of vacant positions will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Resolution 46/22, Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

26. With respect to resolution 46/22: (i) for 2021 an amount of \$4,231,900 was proposed, and (ii) for 2022, new requirements of \$2,031,200 (section 2: \$327,300, section 24: 1,703,200, section 29E: \$700; all non-recurrent) are proposed. This would result in a total projected amount pertaining to resolution 46/22 of \$6,393,100. The Advisory Committee notes that of the \$3,848,100 provided under the commitments in 2021 against the requirement of \$4,231,900, an expected expenditure of \$3,127,400, or an underexpenditure of \$720,700 (18.7 per cent) is projected, and an estimated amount of \$3,127,400 would be considered in the context of the performance report of the programme budget for 2021. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the expenditure incurred against the commitment authority for 2021 and projected in the context of the performance report will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

27. The report indicates that three Commissioners would continue to be supported by a team of 28 staff: one Head of Secretariat/Coordinator (P-5), one Legal Adviser (P-4), one Analyst (P-4), one Chief of Investigations (P-4), one Military Adviser (P-4), one Investigator/Adviser on Sexual Violence (P-4), 11 Investigators (P-3), one Political Adviser (P-3), one Reporting Officer (P-3), one Analyst (P-3), one Interpreter (P-3), one Legal Officer (P-3), one Media Officer (P-3), one Information Evidence Office (P-3), one Archiving Officer (P-3), one Associate Analyst (P-2) and two Programme Assistants (General Service (Other level)). All the positions are proposed for durations of three to nine months in 2021, and three months in 2022, with the exception of the new Archiving Officer (P-3), which is proposed for 12 months in 2022.

28. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its subsequent concurrence letter dated 7 June 2021, addressed to the Secretary-General, the Committee recommended a delayed deployment by three months with respect to the Investigator (P-3) and Administrative Assistant (GS-5) positions and did not support the establishment of an Archiving Officer (P-3) under the present mandate, or any other specific mandate (see para. 41 below) (Advisory Committee letter to the Secretary-General (AC/2163)). Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with an incumbency table showing that: (a) 21 positions were encumbered (1 Head of Secretariat/Coordinator (P-5); 1 Legal Adviser (P-4), 1 Analyst (P-4), 1 Chief of Investigations (P-4), 1 Military Adviser (P-4), 10 Investigators (P-3), 1 Political Adviser (P-3), 1 Analyst (P-3), 1 Interpreter (P-3), 1 Media Officer (P-3), 1 Information Evidence Office (P-3), 1 Associate Analyst (P-2), and 2 Programme Assistants (General Service (Other level))); and, (b) 5 were under recruitment (1 Investigator/Adviser on Sexual Violence (P-4) (see para. 34 below); 1 Reporting Officer (P-3); 1 Legal Officer (P-3), 1 Investigator (P-3), and

1 Administrative Assistant (GS-5)). **Taking into consideration the need for a consolidated approach for the management of archives, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed post of Archiving Officer (P-3) (see also para. 36). The Committee trusts that updated information on the recruitment status of vacant positions will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Resolution 46/23, Situation of human rights in South Sudan

29. With respect to resolution 46/23: (i) for 2021 an amount of \$2,759,500 was proposed, and (ii) for 2022, new requirements of \$1,155,800 (section 2: \$34,800, section 24: \$1,121,000; all non-recurrent) are proposed. This would result in a total projected amount pertaining to resolution 46/23 of \$3,915,300. The Committee notes that of the \$2,435,100 provided under commitments in 2021 against the requirement of \$2,759,500, an expected expenditure of \$1,756,400, or an underexpenditure of \$678,700 (27.9 per cent) is projected, and an estimated amount of \$616,900 would be considered in the context of the performance report of the programme budget for 2021. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the expenditure incurred against the commitment authority for 2021 and projected in the context of the performance report will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

30. The revised estimates report indicates that three Commissioners would continue to be supported by a team of 18 staff, comprising: one Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5), one Human Rights Officer/Chief of Investigations (P-4), one Legal Officer/International Criminal Law Adviser (P-4), one Reporting Officer (P-4), one Human Rights Officer/Transitional Justice Adviser (P-4), one Military Adviser (P-4), one Media Adviser (P-4), one Economic Crimes Adviser (P-4), one Gender Adviser/Investigator (P-4) (seconded by UN-Women), one Child Protection Officer (P-3), (seconded by UN-Women), two Human Rights Officers/Investigators (P-3), one Administrative Officer (P-3), one Legal Officer/Case Manager (P-3), one Security Officer (P-3) and three Language Assistants (Local level).

31. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with an incumbency table showing that: (a) 10 positions were encumbered (1 Human Rights Officer/ Chief of Investigations (P-4), 1 Legal Officer/International Criminal Law Adviser (P-4), 1 Reporting Officer (P-4), 1 Human Rights Officer/ Transitional Justice Adviser (P-4), 1 Military Adviser (P-4), 2 Human Rights Officers/Investigators (P-3), 1 Administrative Officer (P-3), 1 Legal Officer/Case Manager (P-3), 1 Security Officer (P-3)); (b) 2 were under recruitment (1 Senior Human Rights Officer (P-5), 1 Economic Crimes Adviser (P-4)); (c) 2 were vacant (1 Gender Adviser/Investigator (P-4) and 1 Child Protection Officer (P-3), both seconded by UN-Women) (see para. 34 below), and (d) 1 position was not being recruited (Media Adviser (P-4)). **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the recruitment status of vacant positions will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report.**

Resolution 47/21, Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality

32. With respect to resolution 47/21, inter alia, one Coordinator of the Racial Justice Team (P-4) position and two Human Rights Officer (P-3) positions are proposed to be converted from general temporary assistance to posts in 2022, and one Assistant (General Service (Other level)) post is proposed for establishment (A/76/524, paras. 162 and 165). **The Advisory Committee recommends against the conversion from general temporary assistance positions to posts of one Coordinator of the Racial**

Justice Team (P-4) and of one Human Rights Officer (P-3). The Committee recommends against the establishment of one Assistant (General Service (Other level)) post and is of the view that the function should be filled, as needed, from a core staffing capacity for the support of various activities (see para. 36 below).

S-30/1, Ensuring respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel

33. With respect to resolution [S-30/1](#), it is proposed to establish a secretariat comprised of 24 posts, for which staff members would be appointed by the High Commissioner, as follows: (a) Office of the Coordinator: one Coordinator (P-5), one Legal Liaison Officer (P-4), one Gender/Sexual and Gender-based Violence Adviser (P-4), one Security Officer (P-3), one Administrative Officer (P-3), and one Programme Assistant (G-5); (b) Investigation Unit: one Investigation Team Leader (P-4), two Human Rights Officers/Investigators (P-3) and one Child Rights Expert/Human Rights Investigator (P-3); (c) Factual Analysis Unit: one Analyst/Reporting Officer (P-4), one Military Adviser (P-4), one Forensic Expert (P-4), one Analyst (P-3), one Open Source Investigator (P-2); (d) Information, Evidence and Translation Unit: one Information Management Officer (P-4), one Information and Evidence Officer (P-3), three Translators/Interpreters for Arabic and Hebrew (P-2), one Information and Evidence Assistant (G-5); and (e) Legal Analysis and Accountability Unit: one Legal Officer (P-4), two Legal Officers (P-3) ([A/76/524](#), para. 98 (i)–(xx)). **The Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of 1 Information Management Officer (P-4), 1 Human Rights Officer (P-3), one Administrative Officer (P-3) (see para. 36), one Legal Officer (P-3), one Open-Source Investigator (P-2), one Translator/Interpreter (P-2). While the Committee has no objection to the establishment of one Gender/Sexual and Gender-based Violence Adviser (P-4) it notes that such functions are normally seconded and funded by UN-Women, and trusts that efforts will be made to ensure that such funding is obtained (see para. 34).**

Expert support seconded and funded by UN-Women

34. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the implementation of the mandates of the Human Rights Council is the responsibility of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) works closely with UN-Women when mandates require staffing needs within the entity's area of expertise. The Committee was furthermore informed that UN-Women decides whether it is able to provide a resource at no cost to OHCHR. In those instances when resources are not available at UN-Women, the related staff cost is borne by OHCHR.

Security-related functions

35. A number of security-related functions are proposed, for example, with respect to (a) resolution [46/23](#), Situation of human rights in South Sudan: one Field Security Officer (P-3); (b) resolution [48/20](#), Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one Field Security Officer (P-3), who will work closely with the Department of Safety and Security (DSS), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and OHCHR; and (c) resolution [48/25](#), Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya, one Field Security Coordinator (P-3) who will, inter alia, coordinate with DSS and local security forces, while DSS security officers in the country are also providing coordination duties for United Nations entities in Libya, and have a leading/coordinating role in crisis

response situation (A/76/524, paras. 238 and 252). **The Advisory Committee notes that the United Nations maintains established operations on the ground, namely peacekeeping operations and special political missions, which already provide for the entire range of security services through the Department of Safety and Security, as well as through their troop and civilian police components. The Committee is of the view that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should ensure that, as much as possible, security-related functions, such as protection services, are provided directly by the United Nations entities which are already on the ground, on a cost-sharing basis, as applicable. The Committee looks forward to an update thereon, to be reflected in fewer staffing resources, in the next revised estimates report. The Committee therefore recommends against the proposed position of one Field Security Coordinator (P-3) for resolution 48/25.**

Core staffing capacity in support of mandated activities by the Human Rights Council

36. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that 48 posts and long-term general temporary assistance positions were vacant as at 31 October 2021, and that it was not possible to provide vacancy information on short-term general temporary assistance positions, as these were generally only created in Umoja at the time of recruitment. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that, in order to achieve efficiency in the programme budget and in the revised estimates, and for a better mandate implementation, some functions pertaining to administrative support, including human resources and archival support, as well as security and information technology tasks can be consolidated within a core staffing capacity. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to review its existing resources, and to consult with other United Nations departments and offices, for example, the Department of Safety and Security, the United Nations Office in Geneva, peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Global Service Centre, the United Nations Regional Service Centre, as well as United Nations system entities, which operate under similarly changing conditions and require a degree of flexibility, with a view to developing and retaining a core staffing capacity. The Committee looks forward to the presentation of a concrete proposal in the context of the next proposed programme budget submission.**

Non-post resources under section 24, Human rights

37. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed revised estimates for 2022 do not in all instances reflect the projected expenditure levels for 2021, and/or are not fully justified, in particular with respect to the following budget classes: (a) travel of staff (a combined total of \$2,402,300 is proposed, comprising an amount of \$1,241,200 already included in the programme budget 2022, \$1,172,400 in the proposed revised estimates for 2022, and (\$11,300)³ in the revised estimate resulting from resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, compared with a projected expenditure for 2021 of \$1,167,400); (b) general operating expenses (a combined total of \$4,328,200 is proposed, comprising \$2,794,400 already included in the proposed programme budget for 2022 and \$1,533,800 in the proposed revised estimates for 2022, compared with a projected expenditure for 2021 of \$2,445,800); and (c) supplies and materials (a combined total of \$257,100 is proposed, comprising \$216,900 already included in the proposed programme budget for 2022 and \$40,200 in the proposed revised estimates for 2022, compared with a projected expenditure for 2021 of \$105,500). **Given the level of projected expenditure for 2021, the Advisory Committee recommends reductions to the revised estimates under: (a) travel of**

³ Negative \$11,300 due to changed travel requirements.

staff (\$234,500 or 20 per cent); (b) general operating expenses (\$230,100 or 15 per cent); and (c) supplies and materials (\$8,000 or 20 per cent).

38. The Advisory Committee trusts that, in applying lessons learned from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, travel for workshops, conferences or meetings will be kept to a minimum and more use will be made of virtual meeting formats and online training tools (see [A/76/7](#), para. 67).

Non-post resources for section 28, Global communications

39. A total amount of \$9,000 is requested under section 28, Global communications, for webcasting services pertaining to resolution [47/20](#), The Social Forum (\$2,200); and resolution [48/10](#), The right to development (\$6,800). **In consideration of the small amount involved, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to absorb the amount of \$9,000. Furthermore, the Committee recalls its recommendation that internal capacity should be developed in order to provide such technical services ([A/76/7](#), para. VII.24).**

Non-post resources for section 29E, Administration, Geneva

40. For section 29E, Administration, Geneva, the projected expenditure for 2021 amounts to \$74,681,900 compared with the proposed revised estimates for 2021 of \$91,500, in addition to the proposed programme budget amount 2022 of \$76,026,000, for a combined total of \$76,117,500. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the amount of \$91,500 pertains to the provision of sound technicians and recoding services, and to technical services in support of a hybrid/virtual format for 15 Human Rights Council resolutions. Furthermore, the proposed programme budget for section 29E for 2022 includes proposed resources for five Electronic Engineering Technicians (General Service (Other level)) under general temporary assistance for meetings, in order to operate the sound, recording and simultaneous interpretation systems during conferences.

41. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the resources allocated to section 29E in the proposed programme budget pertain to continuing mandates only and that the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) has no standing capacity to take on additional requirements emanating from new mandates in resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council. The Committee was also informed that any resources provided to UNOG from the revised estimates for a certain year are removed from the budget the following year owing to their one-time nature and that, therefore, additional resources are requested through the revised estimates, should there be a request for UNOG to provide services. The Committee was also informed that UNOG provides other services indirectly linked to Council mandates, such as payment processing of travel advances and claims, staff salary processing and medical services, but that these are covered by the regular budget without cost recovery. **The Advisory Committee notes the explanations by the Secretariat with respect to the services provided by the United Nations Office in Geneva but did not receive a convincing justification showing that the proposed amount could not be absorbed and, therefore, recommends resources in the amount of \$45,800, or 50 per cent, under section 29E, and the absorption of the remaining amount.**

Satellite imagery services

42. The provision of satellite imagery is included in the proposed resource requirements for several resolutions.⁴ Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that satellite images are normally procured from the Operational Satellite Applications Programme, which is hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at an average annual cost of \$35,000. The Committee recalls that the services provided by the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of UNITAR are required to enhance the analytical capacity with dedicated satellite imagery and analysis. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that efforts should continue to receive satellite imageries from the Operational Satellite Applications Programme at no cost, when possible, while ensuring that the confidentiality of the sensitive data obtained is assured (see A/75/7/Add.30, para. 13).** The Committee looks forward to receiving further details on satellite imagery in the next revised estimates report, including details on unit costs, as well as on any cost implications to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to the services provided.

43. Subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 17, 22, 28, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39 and 41 above, with any related non-post resources to be adjusted accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed additional resources for 2022 in the amount of \$29,859,400 be reduced by \$2,679,400 to \$27,180,000.

III. Conclusion

44. The actions proposed by the Secretary-General to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 258 of his revised estimates report. **Subject to its recommendations and observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) Approve additional appropriations, representing a charge against the contingency fund, in the amount of \$27,180,000 of the proposed programme budget for 2022, comprising:

- (i) Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (\$3,259,700)
- (ii) Section 24, Human rights (\$23,874,500)
- (iii) Section 28, Global communications (\$0)
- (iv) Section 29E, Administration, Geneva (\$45,800)

(b) Approve the establishment, effective 1 January 2022, of 29 posts under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, to support the activities mandated by the Council in its resolutions 47/21, 48/14 and S-30/1;

(c) Approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,491,900 under section 36, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for 2022, to be offset by an equivalent increase of \$2,491,900 under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

⁴ Resolution 46/1, Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; 46/20, Situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath; 46/22, Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic; S-30/1, Ensuring respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel; and 48/25, Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya.