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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/689)]

68/247. Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015

The General Assembly,

I

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Recalling its resolution [35/221](#) of 17 December 1980, section VII of its resolution [55/238](#) of 23 December 2000, its resolution [58/266](#) of 23 December 2003 and section III of its resolution [65/268](#) of 4 April 2011,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;¹

II

International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Recalling section IV of its resolution [60/283](#) of 7 July 2006, section V of its resolution [63/262](#) of 24 December 2008, its resolution [64/243](#) of 24 December 2009, its resolution [65/243](#) A and section II.B of its resolution [65/259](#) of 24 December 2010, section I of its resolution [66/232](#) B of 21 June 2012, its resolution [66/246](#) and sections II and V of its resolution [66/247](#) of 24 December 2011 and section IV of its resolution [67/246](#) of 24 December 2012,

Having considered the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations,² the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the third progress report of

¹ A/68/187.

² A/68/351.



the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the Standards³ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,⁴

1. *Takes note* of the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations² and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the third progress report of the Board of Auditors on the implementation of the Standards;³

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁴

3. *Accepts* the third progress report of the Board of Auditors;

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

5. *Notes* the progress made since the issuance of the fifth progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations,⁵ and requests the Secretary-General to report on the status of the Standards implementation projects in the Secretariat and across the United Nations system;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the additional eight entities audited for the year ended 31 December 2012, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices from this implementation to other entities where the implementation of the Standards remains under way;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as the Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to invite the heads of the entities to continue to address underlying challenges related to the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, including those relating to inventory;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the risk assessment and risk management tools, in particular those related to the early warning mechanism, the transitional arrangements related to data, implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project, financial statements that are compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, accounting for inventory and opening balances for assets and liabilities, and to continue to report on the results achieved in these specific areas of risk;

9. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to monitor continuously the latest International Public Sector Accounting Standards and training best practices and to promote them within the United Nations system entities;

10. *Expresses serious concern* about weaknesses identified by the Board of Auditors in relation to asset management in all entities after the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and in this regard calls for corrective measures in order to appropriately address this recurring issue and thus enhance the quality of data for financial statements that are compliant with the Standards to support the effective decision-making process;

³ A/68/161.

⁴ A/68/508.

⁵ A/67/344.

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that accurate opening balances for assets and liabilities are established in the preparation of financial statements that are compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

12. *Reaffirms* that the Umoja enterprise resource planning system will serve as the backbone for implementation by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and urges increased collaboration between the Standards and Umoja teams;

13. *Expresses concern* that the delays in the implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning project pose a significant risk to the timely realization of the benefits of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take additional measures to identify further potential benefits that can be quantified during the transition phase as well as after the full implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Umoja and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the General Assembly is kept informed, on an annual basis, of the progress in implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by 2014, including milestones and deliverables, outstanding activities, utilization of resources and the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the local Standards implementation teams, as well as to ensure full realization of the benefits associated with the implementation of the Standards;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of section IV of its resolution [67/246](#), and requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the implications arising from the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards for the workload of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly, as well as the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors on this issue, and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take all measures necessary to ensure that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards project is implemented on time and within the approved budget;

18. *Concurs* with the views expressed by the Board of Auditors in paragraph 27 of its report about the potential for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards to enhance the role and profile of financial management, and in this regard welcomes its intention to assist United Nations entities in making further improvements in this area;

19. *Notes with concern* differences of opinion between the International Public Sector Accounting Standards implementation team and the Board of Auditors on some terms and mechanisms of the Standards, including inventory, required for full project implementation within the United Nations system, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to make additional efforts to come to an agreement as soon as possible on this issue and to report thereon;

III

Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

Recalling its resolution [56/270](#) of 27 March 2002, section IV of its resolution [58/272](#) of 23 December 2003, sections IX and X of its resolution [62/238](#) of 22 December 2007, section I of its resolution [63/263](#) of 24 December 2008, its

resolution 64/243, section III of its resolution 65/259, section VII of its resolution 66/247 and section II of its resolution 67/246,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa⁶ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,⁷

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa;⁶

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;⁷

3. *Recalls* paragraph 3 of section III of its resolution 65/259, and in this regard regrets the continued delay in the renovation of conference facilities at the Commission, in particular Africa Hall and Conference Room 1;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to ensure that the renovation of conference facilities at the Commission, in particular Africa Hall and Conference Room 1, is carried out and to report to the General Assembly on the progress at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;

5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, as host country, in facilitating the construction of additional office facilities and the renovation of conference facilities at the Commission;

6. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of guidance, interaction and coordination between the Secretariat in New York, on the one hand, and the Commission in Addis Ababa, on the other, with clear reporting lines;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full accountability for the delays, the lack of responsiveness of management to the needs of the construction and renovation projects in Addis Ababa and other factors that have contributed to delays in the implementation of the projects and to include information on measures taken to address those issues in his next annual progress report;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat with ensuring effective oversight of the implementation of the construction and renovation of the conference facilities and with submitting to the General Assembly information on key findings in the context of its annual reports;

IV

Capital master plan

Recalling its resolutions 54/249 of 23 December 1999, 55/238, 56/234 and 56/236 of 24 December 2001 and 56/286 of 27 June 2002, section II of its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, its resolution 59/295 of 22 June 2005, section II of its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, its resolutions 60/256 of 8 May 2006, 60/282 of 30 June 2006, 61/251 of 22 December 2006, 62/87 of 10 December 2007, 63/270 of 7 April 2009, 64/228 of 22 December 2009 and 65/269 of 4 April 2011, section III of its resolution 66/258 of 9 April 2012 and section V of its resolution 67/246 and its decisions 58/566 of 8 April 2004, 65/543 of 24 December 2010 and 66/555 of 24 December 2011,

⁶ A/68/517.

⁷ A/68/643.

Having considered the eleventh annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,⁸ the report of the Secretary-General on the final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013,⁹ the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012,¹⁰ the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012¹¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,¹²

1. *Takes note* of the eleventh annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan,⁸ the report of the Secretary-General on the final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013,⁹ the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012¹⁰ and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the capital master plan for the year ended 31 December 2012;¹¹

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;¹²

3. *Accepts* the report of the Board of Auditors;

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

A. Eleventh annual progress report

5. *Reaffirms* paragraph 37 of its resolution 62/87, paragraph 2 of its resolution 64/228 and paragraph 5 of section V of its resolution 67/246;

6. *Also reaffirms* paragraph 28 of its resolution 62/87, and decides that nothing in the present resolution shall be interpreted as a change in the current scope of the capital master plan as decided by the General Assembly, nor should the need for liquidity of the project be linked to the completion of the renovation of the buildings under the current scope;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 50 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, the information specified therein;

8. *Acknowledges* the progress made towards the completion of the project, and expresses concern about the continuing uncertainties regarding major aspects of the project, including but not limited to the issues of associated costs, the cost overruns, the cash balance and the situation of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building and the South Annex Building, which continue to pose risks to the successful completion of the project;

9. *Approves* the application of the balance of interest income and the working capital reserve funds, as well as the future interest income, in the full

⁸ A/68/352.

⁹ A/68/352/Add.1.

¹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 5, Vol. V (A/68/5 (Vol. V))*.

¹¹ A/68/336.

¹² A/68/551.

amount of 159.4 million United States dollars to the remaining cash balance for the corresponding remaining requirements of the project;

10. *Decides* that the provisions for the application of credits under regulations 3.2 (d), 5.3 and 5.4 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations¹³ shall be suspended in respect of the working capital reserve and interest income earned on assessments received from Member States for the capital master plan;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the most up-to-date information on a cash flow bridging mechanism to address possible cash flow challenges of the project during the time remaining until its completion;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to interact with the host city as required in this regard with a view to determining available options for resolving the pending security concerns in relation to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building and the South Annex Building, to assist the General Assembly in making a final determination on the issue within the context of the capital master plan and to report thereon at the first part of the resumed sixty-eighth session of the Assembly;

13. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 21 and 22 of section V of its resolution [67/246](#);

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the current conditions of maintenance of the art, crafts and gifts donated to the United Nations in New York in the context of his next progress report;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the donations from Member States that contributed to the renovation of the Conference Building and the Secretariat Building;

16. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 31 and 32 of section V of its resolution [67/246](#);

17. *Notes* that as at 30 June 2013 an amount of 2.7 million dollars in assessments remained unpaid to the capital master plan for 2011 and prior periods, and urges the Member States concerned to arrange for the disbursement of those contributions expeditiously;

18. *Approves* the extension of the approved commitment authority for 2013 into 2014;

19. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into additional commitments of up to 15 million dollars for resources required for the capital master plan project through 2014;

B. Associated costs

20. *Recalls* paragraph 44 of section V of its resolution [67/246](#), and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, the final expenditure for associated costs for the period from 2008 to 2013, updates on the projected final cost to completion and the status of contributions;

21. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to make every effort to absorb the associated costs within the budget approved for the capital master plan;

¹³ ST/SGB/2013/4.

V

Strategic heritage plan of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Recalling part XI of its resolution 64/243 and section VII of its resolution 66/247,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹⁴ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁵

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁴
2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁵ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. Reiterates that all planned major capital projects and related resource requirements should be included in the strategic capital review to allow for comprehensive analysis and planning by the Organization;
4. Concurs with the need to address the health, safety, usability and access needs of the Palais des Nations;
5. Recalls its resolution 66/247, and reiterates that the Secretary-General must ensure that major capital expenditure projects are not implemented simultaneously in order to prevent the need to finance and supervise them at the same time;
6. Reiterates its request that the renovation phase of the strategic heritage plan not start before the General Assembly has taken a decision on this matter and the capital master plan has been completed;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to reduce the planning phase as far as possible with an aim to start construction work at the earliest opportunity;
8. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Office of Central Support Services of the Department of Management of the Secretariat, to take into account lessons learned and best practices from past construction and renovation projects in implementing the strategic heritage plan, in particular to draw from experience and know-how acquired from large capital projects, including the capital master plan;
9. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure robust internal project control mechanisms in the context of the scope, cost, schedule and quality of the strategic heritage plan;
10. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring effective governance and oversight with respect to the implementation of the strategic heritage plan, and requests the Secretary-General to present options in this regard to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-ninth session;
11. Stresses the importance of oversight with respect to the development and implementation of the strategic heritage plan, and requests the Advisory Committee to request the Board of Auditors to initiate oversight activities and to report annually thereon to the General Assembly;

¹⁴ A/68/372.

¹⁵ A/68/585.

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the impact of Umoja is taken into consideration in the strategic heritage plan and that progress made thereon is reported to the General Assembly in the context of future progress reports;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to assess the potential for flexible workplace strategies in the context of the strategic heritage plan, subject to a decision by the General Assembly on this matter;

14. *Regrets* that the parking requirements were not part of either the preliminary building survey or the conceptual study;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to study all viable options to ensure sufficient parking spaces so as to meet the existing and future needs of diplomatic missions and Secretariat staff within the projected overall budget of the strategic heritage plan and to report thereon in the context of future progress reports;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on plans to reuse existing furniture and to reduce new furniture requirements, where possible, in the context of his next report on the strategic heritage plan;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 31 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the main part of its seventieth session, revised overall cost estimates of the strategic heritage plan taking into account, inter alia, a review of the contingency level, the overall level of consultancy fees and the in-depth technical assessment to be undertaken;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit annual progress reports on the implementation of the strategic heritage plan;

19. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of Central Support Services, to update Member States regularly on the progress of this project;

20. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the work undertaken for the biennium 2012–2013 and to be undertaken for the biennium 2014–2015 will not have to be redone as part of the strategic heritage plan;

21. *Requests* that the term “associated costs” continue to be used in this regard;

22. *Commends* the Secretary-General for including associated cost projections in the total project requirements on the basis of lessons learned from the capital master plan, and requests him to ensure that the proposed requirements for associated costs are based on actual needs and to report thereon no later than at the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all associated costs related to the strategic heritage plan are presented transparently in the project cost estimates throughout the project cycle of the strategic heritage plan and to ensure that all such costs are fully justified and necessary for the timely completion of the project;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to refine his proposal with regard to the core functions of the strategic heritage plan project team and to report thereon at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

25. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to further explore the possibilities of alternative funding mechanisms, inter alia through a donation policy, with the aim of reducing the overall assessment on Member States;

26. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of support from the Government of Switzerland to the strategic heritage plan, and acknowledges the efforts of the host country to make the plan possible;

27. *Welcomes* the donations by Member States to the renovation of the Palais des Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to include all voluntary contributions in the total project budget;

28. *Stresses* that the strategic heritage plan should be implemented in compliance with the relevant provisions of the agreements pertaining to the animals living on the land provided for the United Nations Office at Geneva;

29. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to negotiate with the host country on loan arrangements for both the renovation and the construction portions of the strategic heritage plan, including the possibility of an interest-free loan, and to report to the General Assembly in this regard in the context of his next report on the plan;

30. *Approves* implementation strategy (c), as proposed by the Secretary-General, for planning and design purposes;

31. *Recalls* paragraphs 55 and 58 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to revert to the establishment of the multi-year special account for the strategic heritage plan at the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore options of using contracted external expertise to ensure the most appropriate staffing levels to support the implementation of the project;

33. *Affirms* that the strategic heritage plan project team will be a time-limited and mission-specific endeavour and that the team should therefore not be a permanent addition to the existing organizational structure;

34. *Approves* resource requirements for the strategic heritage plan for 2014 in the amount of 15,629,900 Swiss francs, or 16,645,200 dollars at preliminary 2014–2015 rates, in respect of which the General Assembly:

(a) Decides to approve general temporary assistance in the amount of 1,492,400 dollars under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 to provide for the continuation of the two existing positions (one Engineering Project Manager (P-4) and one Architecture Project Manager (P-4)) and the establishment, in 2014, of the following positions: one Project Director (D-2), one Chief of Design and Construction (D-1), one Chief of Programme Management Support (D-1), one Senior Design Project Manager (P-5), one Senior Programme and Cost Manager (P-5), one Administrative Officer (Finance) (P-4), one Procurement Officer (P-4), one Contracts Management/Legal Officer (P-4), one Mechanical and Engineering Coordinator (P-3) and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level));

(b) Decides to approve, under section 33, additional requirements in the amount of 15,152,800 dollars for contractual services, travel and contingencies and escalation;

35. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of 1,294,200 dollars in 2015, at preliminary 2014–2015 rates;

VI

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹⁶ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁷

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁶
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁷ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Takes note* of paragraphs 15, 23, 25, 31, 60, 70, 125, 165 and 166 of the report of the Advisory Committee;¹⁸
4. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁹ and urges the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria to continue his efforts towards the successful convening of the second Geneva conference on the Syrian Arab Republic, aimed at achieving the objective of the mission as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;
5. *Takes note* of paragraph 48 of the report of the Advisory Committee¹⁸ with regard to the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, and decides to establish one Public Information Officer position (P-4) in that Office, to be located in Sana'a;
6. *Recalls* paragraph 54 of the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁸ requests the Secretary-General to review the appropriate level of leadership arrangements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, taking into account the importance of successful implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, and, pending the review, authorizes the Secretary-General to make the appointment of the Assistant Secretary-General for a term of seven months;
7. *Takes note* of paragraph 60 of the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁸ and decides to approve the establishment of the following posts: one Chief of Staff (D-1), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3), one Human Resources Assistant (Local level) and one Administrative Assistant (Local level) in Nairobi and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) in New York;
8. *Also takes note* of paragraph 100 of the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁸ and reaffirms its position that any consideration of accommodation for air travel, including exceptions to the standards of accommodation for air travel, should be dealt with under paragraph 17 of section VI of its resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the relocation of the office of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate is carried out in the most cost-efficient manner and to report thereon in the context of the second performance

¹⁶ A/68/327 and Add.1–8 and Add.8/Corr.1.

¹⁷ A/68/7/Add.10 and Corr.1 and Add.17 and 18 and Add.18/Corr.1.

¹⁸ A/68/7/Add.10 and Corr.1.

¹⁹ A/68/327/Add.6.

report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

10. *Recalls* paragraph 134 of the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁸ and decides not to abolish the Senior Security Sector Reform Officer position (P-5) and the Police Officer position (P-3) in the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Service of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau;

11. *Also recalls* paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee,²⁰ and decides to establish a second Public Information Officer position (P-3) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia;

12. *Decides* to establish one Principal Political Affairs Officer position (D-1) (Constitution Adviser) in the United Nations Support Mission in Libya;

13. *Also decides* not to abolish one P-3 position, one National Professional Officer position and one General Service (Local level) position in the United Nations Support Mission in Libya;

14. *Takes note* of paragraph 197 of the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁸ and decides that the commensurate reduction in resident auditor staffing in Kuwait will be reflected in the budget of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for 2014;

15. *Decides* not to approve the requirements of 500,000 dollars for quick-impact projects proposed for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 222 of the report of the Advisory Committee,¹⁸ and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of staffing requirements of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, including the organizational structure and the number and level of senior positions, for inclusion in the 2015 budget submission;

17. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting cooperation among United Nations missions in order to increase their effectiveness and efficiency, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard, without prejudice to the unique mandate and the approved budget for each mission;

18. *Approves* the budgets totalling 596,826,600 dollars for the 36 special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, which are presented in the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁶

19. *Also approves* a charge totalling 596,826,600 dollars net against the provision for special political missions requested in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

VII

Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Recalling section V of its resolution 66/247 and its resolution 67/240 of 24 December 2012,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and

²⁰ A/68/7/Add.17.

amendments to the regulations of the Fund,²¹ the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Board²² and the related report of the Advisory Committee,²³

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and amendments to the regulations of the Fund²¹ and the report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Board;²²

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,²³ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Accepts* the report of the Board of Auditors on the Fund for the year ended 31 December 2012;²⁴

4. *Approves* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report, and requests the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to ensure that all the recommendations of the Board of Auditors are implemented in full and in a timely manner;

5. *Reaffirms* that, in accordance with article 19 of the regulations of the Fund, the Secretary-General serves as fiduciary for the investment of the assets of the Fund and has fiduciary responsibility for deciding upon the investment of the assets of the Fund;

6. *Approves* the amendments to article 1 (*n*) (normal retirement age), article 29 (early retirement benefit) and article 30 (deferred retirement benefit) of the regulations of the Fund, as contained in annex V to the report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of establishing a full-time representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the Fund, and in this regard decides to defer approval of this matter to the first part of the resumed sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to prepare, in consultation with the Board, detailed terms of reference for this post outlining, inter alia, key responsibilities, qualifications, appointment criteria, terms and duration of service, level and reporting lines, to be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and presented to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session;

9. *Requests* the Board to continue to take all the measures necessary to address the difficulty of finding suitable candidates;

10. *Decides* to establish 22 additional posts, as set out in the table below:

²¹ A/68/303.

²² A/C.5/68/2.

²³ A/68/7/Add.3.

²⁴ A/68/303, annex VIII.

<i>Organizational unit</i>	<i>Title of post</i>	<i>Number of posts</i>	<i>Category/level</i>
Administration			
Programme of work			
Risk Management and Legal Service	Chief of Service	1	D-1
	Team Assistant	1	General Service (Other level)
Financial Services Section	Accountant	1	P-3
Investments			
Executive direction and management			
	Administrative Assistant to the Representative of the Secretary-General	1	General Service (Other level)
Programme of work			
Investments Section	Director, Private Markets	1	D-1
North American equities portfolio	Investment Officer	2	P-3
Global emerging markets	Investment Officer	1	P-3
Fixed income group	Investment Officer, Foreign Exchange and Cash Management	1	P-4
	Investment Officer, Emerging Market Debts	1	P-4
Real assets	Investment Officer, Real Assets	1	P-3
Alternative assets	Investment Officer, Hedge Funds	1	P-4
	Investment Assistant	1	General Service (Principal level)
Trade execution team	Trade Execution Officer	1	P-3
	Trade Execution Assistant	1	General Service (Principal level)
External management group	External Manager	1	P-4
Risk and Compliance Section	Compliance Officer	1	P-3
Operations Section	Chief Operating Officer	1	D-1
	Accountant	1	P-4
	Finance Officer	1	P-3
	Senior Accounting Assistant	1	General Service (Principal level)
Programme support			
Information Systems Section	Data Security Administrator	1	P-3
Total		22	

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the use of in-house expertise, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take all measures to ensure that the costs for non-discretionary advisory fees are reduced;

12. *Takes note* of paragraphs 33 and 34 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard decides to maintain the current structure of the Fund;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Board, in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat, to complete its review of the policies governing the recruitment, promotion and retention of the staff of the Fund and to report to the General Assembly, no later than at the main part of its seventieth session, on the outcome of the review and any measures proposed;

14. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Fund in the implementation of the Integrated Pension Administration System, and looks forward to further updates on its implementation in the context of future reports;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 51 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Board to establish a mechanism for tracking all withdrawal settlements paid to participants who separate with less than five years of contributory service and to provide this information to the General Assembly in the context of future reports of the Board;

16. *Stresses* the need to avoid any action that would compromise the fiduciary responsibilities and long-term sustainability of the Fund;

17. *Welcomes* the alignment of reporting on the operations and on the investments of the Fund following the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

18. *Approves* the revised estimate of 185,730,600 dollars for the biennium 2012–2013 for the administration of the Fund;

19. *Also approves* expenses, chargeable directly to the Fund, totalling 156,341,800 dollars net for the biennium 2014–2015;

20. *Further approves* the amount of 21,324,700 dollars as the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the Fund for the biennium 2014–2015, of which 13,370,600 dollars would represent the share of the regular budget and the balance of 7,954,100 dollars would represent the share of the funds and programmes;

21. *Approves* the reduction of 561,400 dollars in the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

22. *Authorizes* the Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for the biennium 2014–2015 by an amount not to exceed 200,000 dollars;

VIII

Strengthening the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General²⁵ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,²⁶

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;²⁵

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;²⁶

²⁵ A/68/506.

²⁶ A/68/7/Add.8.

IX**Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for
Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations
of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the programme of work
of the Institute for 2014–2015**

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General²⁷ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,²⁸

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;²⁷
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;²⁸
3. *Approves* the request for a subvention to the Institute of 577,800 dollars (before recosting) for the biennium 2014–2015 from the regular budget of the United Nations, for which the provision has already been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

X**International Trade Centre**

Having considered the programme budget proposals for the International Trade Centre for the biennium 2014–2015²⁹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,³⁰

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;³⁰
2. *Decides* to approve resources in the amount of 39,913,900 dollars (the United Nations share equivalent to 36,960,271 Swiss francs at the exchange rate of 0.926 Swiss francs to 1 dollar) proposed for the biennium 2014–2015 under section 13, International Trade Centre, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

XI**Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by
the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013**

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General³¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,³²

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³¹
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;³²

²⁷ A/68/80.

²⁸ A/68/7/Add.1.

²⁹ A/68/6 (Sect. 13) and Add.1.

³⁰ A/68/7/Add.6.

³¹ A/68/380.

³² A/68/7/Add.2.

XII

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General³³ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,³⁴

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³³
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee,³⁴ subject to the provisions of the present resolution;
3. *Approves* an additional appropriation in the amount of 4,741,900 dollars (net), including 1,159,200 dollars under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, 3,579,900 dollars under section 24, Human rights, and 2,800 dollars under section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, to be charged to the contingency fund, and also approves an amount of 61,400 dollars under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;
4. *Also approves* the establishment, as from 1 January 2014, of two posts (P-3) under section 24, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015;

XIII

Revised estimates resulting from the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015 resulting from the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³⁵ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,³⁶

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³⁵
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;³⁶

XIV

Revised estimates relating to the high-level political forum on sustainable development

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution [67/290](#) of 9 July

³³ A/68/634.

³⁴ A/68/7/Add.15.

³⁵ A/68/385.

³⁶ A/68/7/Add.5.

2013, entitled “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”,³⁷ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,³⁸

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³⁷
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;³⁸
3. *Decides* to appropriate resources in the amount of 754,600 dollars under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, representing a charge against the contingency fund;

XV

Implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat³⁹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,⁴⁰

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³⁹
2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;⁴⁰

XVI

Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2013

Having considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly⁴¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,⁴²

1. *Recalls* its resolution 68/253 of 27 December 2013;
2. *Takes note* of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General;⁴¹
3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;⁴²

XVII

Gross jointly financed budget of the Joint Inspection Unit

Approves the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 14,026,200 dollars;

³⁷ A/68/365 and Add.1.

³⁸ A/68/7/Add.14.

³⁹ A/68/552.

⁴⁰ A/68/7/Add.11.

⁴¹ A/C.5/68/3.

⁴² A/68/7/Add.4.

XVIII**Gross jointly financed budget of the International Civil Service Commission**

Approves the gross budget for the International Civil Service Commission for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 19,145,500 dollars;

XIX**Gross jointly financed budget of the United Nations System
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

Notes the gross budget for the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 5,857,500 dollars;

XX**Gross jointly financed budget of the Department
of Safety and Security**

Approves the gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat for the biennium 2014–2015 in the amount of 275,551,200 dollars, broken down as follows:

- (a) Field Security Operations: 245,057,500 dollars;
- (b) Security and Safety Services at the United Nations Office at Vienna: 30,493,700 dollars;

XXI**Effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation**

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation⁴³ and the related report of the Advisory Committee,⁴⁴

Takes note of the revised estimates arising from recosting owing to changes in the rates of exchange and inflation;

XXII**Contingency fund**

Notes that a balance of 22,338,043 dollars remains in the contingency fund.⁴⁵

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⁴³ A/68/659.

⁴⁴ A/68/7/Add.24.

⁴⁵ See A/C.5/68/SR.25 and 26.