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Proposed programme budget for 2024

Proposed programme budget for 2024

Part V

Regional cooperation for development

Section 23

Regular programme of technical cooperation**

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* [A/78/50](#).

** In keeping with paragraph 10 of resolution [77/267](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.



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Overview

Overall orientation

- 23.1 The regular programme of technical cooperation, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 58 (I) in 1946, serves to support developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and countries emerging from conflict in their capacity-development efforts. Currently, those efforts are geared towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits. The programme's broad objective is to support and advance processes aimed at developing the capacity of Governments, through both individuals and institutions, to formulate and implement policies for sustainable economic and social development. The sharing of experiences across countries and regions, South-South cooperation, the use of national expertise from the beneficiary countries to the extent possible and the building of knowledge networks to facilitate continued exchange and assistance and promote sustainability are characteristic of the programme.
- 23.2 The programme enables the Secretariat to offer Member States access to the diverse global and regional specialized development expertise and knowledge readily available within the programme's implementing entities: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the five regional commissions (the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- 23.3 The capacity-development activities of the implementing entities draw substantively from their normative and analytical work and respond to the policy guidance and programmes of action agreed by Member States through the intergovernmental mechanisms. This enables developing countries to benefit from both the knowledge acquired through that work and from the experiences of different geographic regions, allowing for the sharing and exchange of innovative and good practices. Of equal importance is the contribution that the capacity-development work brings to the normative and analytical activities and, ultimately, to the support provided to the intergovernmental dialogue.
- 23.4 The defining feature of the programme is that it is demand-driven, responding to an expressed need by Member States for capacity-development support. At the same time, in order to ensure that services complement and are aligned with the overall and mandated strategic priorities of the implementing entities, they cannot be delivered solely on an ad hoc basis, but rather must be part of more strategic programmatic approaches based on a thorough understanding and appreciation of national needs.
- 23.5 Member States have recognized that part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the adoption of new, transformative and innovative approaches to integrate sustainability into national development planning, policies, budgets, law, institutions and monitoring and accountability frameworks. Doing so will require considerable individual, institutional, analytical and statistical capacities to address the complexity and cross-cutting nature of the sustainable development challenges in a coherent and integrated fashion. While countries have made important strides in some of these areas, the challenges remain enormous. For this reason, capacity development is a central requirement to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.
- 23.6 The devastating effect of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is a challenge to hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. With an already fragile global economy, the world is now facing simultaneous crises in food, energy and finance that threaten the economies of many developing countries. The agile modality of the

programme allows the implementing entities, when applicable, to support Member States in designing response measures to mitigate the adverse effects of the different crises for a sustainable and inclusive recovery. The programme will, inter alia, provide policy advice, facilitate the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices and provide capacity development while increasingly adopting new and innovative approaches, including virtual training sessions, meetings and advisory services.

- 23.7 The programme will support countries in strengthening their resilience to external shocks and global crises leading to rising food prices, rising energy prices and tightening financial conditions, with dramatic implications for social cohesion, financial systems and global peace and security.
- 23.8 While the programme cannot address the many facets of these ongoing global challenges, the strategic use of the programme's resources facilitates quick responses and initial support by implementing entities and is complementary to other development funds, including the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources, which optimizes the programme's impact through strengthened linkages and follow-through.
- 23.9 Global and regional entities of the Secretariat implementing activities under the programme coordinate those activities through established internal mechanisms. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, the main focus of which is the harmonization of its members' programmes, helps to achieve a rational division of labour and complementarity between the global and regional entities by promoting programmatic coordination and identifying synergies for operational work. At another level, the engagement of implementing entities within the United Nations Sustainable Development Group brings about greater awareness by a larger group of entities of the specific expertise and operational strengths available in the United Nations system, thereby increasing potential cooperation to implement projects and undertake operational work at the country level, and improving system-wide coherence in the context of relevant country processes and cooperation frameworks.

Coordination with the resident coordinator system and other partners

- 23.10 The implementing entities of the programme are all non-resident agencies. As such, they engage with the Resident Coordinator and resident agencies to maximize the impact of country-level development work. Such cooperation enables access to up-to-date information on national development priorities and better positioning in the broader development cooperation environment. For resident agencies, it enables access to the knowledge and expertise of non-resident agencies. This cooperation can include joint programming, including through the common country assessment, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the poverty reduction strategy paper process, as well as joint needs assessments, joint work plans and, where appropriate, joint fundraising.
- 23.11 Many non-resident agencies have entered into institutional cooperation agreements with resident agencies, often in the form of memorandums of understanding. Some Resident Coordinators have a dedicated liaison officer to engage with non-resident agencies. There has been improvement in non-resident agency/resident agency cooperation in terms of better communication and coordination, including through increased awareness of each other's mandates, participation in knowledge networking and better advance planning by the non-resident agencies when undertaking country missions by directly engaging with the resident coordination offices and resident agencies on country-level work. The development and adoption of the standard operating procedures for countries wishing to adopt the "Delivering as one" approach is an important milestone in providing concrete, flexible solutions for United Nations country teams that are in line with the reform agenda, as formulated in the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.
- 23.12 Cooperation with partners within the broader development assistance community, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), regional development banks and other regional organizations will continue to be pursued as partners work together to align with and improve coherence of development priorities among country clusters (least developed countries/landlocked developing countries/small island developing States), within

regional and subregional groupings, and at the country level for greater impact of the programme's activities in the field.

Objective and strategy

- 23.13 The overarching objective that guides the programming of the resources allocated to individual entities under the programme and the overall strategy and criteria followed for implementation are:
- (a) **Objective.** The objective to which each subprogramme of the entities of the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes can be found in the relevant fascicle of the proposed programme plan for 2024 (A/78/6), for each implementing entity;
 - (b) **Strategy.** The strategy to promote the above objective consists of:
 - (i) Responding to the requests of Governments for urgent advice on policy-related issues;
 - (ii) Providing Governments with specific advice on sectoral matters relevant to their development strategies and programmes;
 - (iii) Assisting Governments in the formulation or evaluation of programmes and projects leading to the enhancement of national programmes;
 - (iv) Developing networks of experts and practitioners in the respective sectoral areas to facilitate information-sharing, synergies and potential collaboration, especially through information and communications technology (ICT), workshops and seminars;
 - (c) **Criteria.** The following criteria are relevant to all implementing entities of the programme:
 - (i) Activities should be responsive primarily to the requests of developing countries and be of a short-term nature (i.e., conceived and implemented within less than two calendar years); longer-term initiatives that require a phased approach and that build on knowledge acquired through previous interventions may continue, pending the mobilization of external resources;
 - (ii) Activities should fall within one of the priority areas of the implementing entity as mandated by its governing body, and the entity should play a demonstrable leadership role in normative and analytical functions relating to the activities;
 - (iii) Activities should build capacity in developing countries, including for meeting treaty and related normative obligations and, through the sharing of experience gained at the country level, enrich the analytical functions of the implementing entity for the benefit of all Member States;
 - (iv) Activities that aid in the preparation of specialized components of a country's development strategy or that help to prepare requests for larger-scale funding from other sources are encouraged.
- 23.14 In line with General Assembly resolution [2514 \(XXIV\)](#) and Economic and Social Council resolution [1434 \(XLVII\)](#), activities financed under the present budget section will continue to focus on short-term advisory services, training and field projects, as outlined below. Activities will be based on needs expressed by Member States and by regional and subregional cooperation groups, either at the request of a State or as guided by the intergovernmental process, bearing in mind the criteria set forth for the purposes and uses of the programme.

Short-term advisory services

- 23.15 Advisory services ensure the provision of high-level technical expertise, the transfer of knowledge from global and regional entities to Governments on policy-related issues and development strategies and the formulation, assessment or evaluation of projects and programmes. The core of the programme is built around regional and interregional advisers who are specialists in both capacity development and in the substantive knowledge of the subprogramme. These advisers represent the critical interface between the countries and the implementing entities, facilitating country-level

access to the expertise of the Organization. Advisory services may also be provided by national consultants, supported by the implementing entity, or any other member of staff tasked with programming funds of the regular programme of technical cooperation. Services may be provided through an advisory mission, involving travel to the target country, by virtual or hybrid means. Advisory services may lead to the formulation of technical cooperation projects, implemented either by a Government or in partnership with a United Nations entity. Advisory services may also lead to United Nations Development Account projects, providing a natural platform to pursue longer-term and sustainable support to the countries.

- 23.16 To ensure that the pool of interregional/regional advisers represents the highest calibre of technical skills and knowledge, all implementing entities of the programme have committed to updating their advisory capacities so as to be able to replace advisers as needed to ensure that they have the best skills and knowledge to respond to the changing needs of Member States. Extensions are reviewed on an annual basis by senior-level departmental panels and include a review of the advisory services provided during the past period and an examination of a results-based workplan, which is fully integrated within the subprogramme's technical cooperation programme, for the forthcoming period. While there is an annual review of the advisory skills needed during the next period, the positions are automatically redefined at the five-year mark to better respond to the changing needs of countries and to address new and emerging concerns. Doing so may result in a total change of competencies and skills or the redefinition of the positions' sectoral focus to address a specific technical area.
- 23.17 In line with past intergovernmental guidance, the implementing entities have taken steps to utilize complementary resources for the provision of advisory services, including the recruitment of short-term advisers who respond to very specific, distinct assignments of a limited duration, as well as consultancy assignments, in which national and regional expertise are drawn upon, in particular when addressing issues that are country-specific and for which expert knowledge of national or regional issues is fundamental in ensuring the most relevant and targeted support. The entities also rely on national or regional institutions, in particular in the context of national workshops, which ensures the transfer of local knowledge and expertise and promotes local follow-up actions.

Field projects

- 23.18 Field projects provide a link between research and analysis that is based on implementation experiences and provide opportunities to test-drive policy or other normative recommendations on a small scale in which the impact can be quickly and closely gauged. The projects are designed in response to demands by Member States regarding a clearly articulated need, while simultaneously reflecting programmatic and subprogramme priorities. They are longer-term initiatives and are often supplemented by extrabudgetary resources or the United Nations Development Account in order to scale up their activities. Such projects may be country-based but can also be interregional or subregional.

Training

- 23.19 Training is aimed at building knowledge and skills that will contribute to strengthening national capacity for policy development and the effective implementation of national policies. Training is often conducted through seminars and workshops, as well as through the provision of short-term fellowships, which foster peer-to-peer opportunities for learning. The exchange of good practices and South-South cooperation are consistently fostered. The main consideration guiding the training conducted under the programme is that the topics should play a catalytic role in the development process and should contribute to linking local needs and conditions with the follow up of major conferences. Even where the organizing entity is a global one, the participation of the relevant regional commissions is encouraged in the interest of sustainability and continued regional support after the event.
- 23.20 Training is undertaken in response to an identified capacity gap in one or more countries and at the request of Member States. Interregional advisers, staff and/or consultants may lead and participate in seminars and workshops by developing training modules, facilitating discussions and providing

hands-on training. Training can be held virtually, in-person or through a hybrid means. Seminars and workshops are held at the subnational, national and regional levels.

Alignment and complementarity of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account

- 23.21 Implementing entities have used the complementarity of the activities of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account, as well as extrabudgetary resources, to create multiplier effects that contribute to longer-term sustained development results. Initial support funded by the regular programme is often followed through by developing projects by the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources. For example, advisory missions undertaken under the regular programme of technical cooperation may lead to the establishment of United Nations Development Account projects that provide a natural platform to pursue longer-term and sustainable support to countries. This serves to enhance the multiplier effects that contribute to longer-term, sustained impact.

Status of internal assessment

- 23.22 Considering the decentralized nature of the regular programme of technical cooperation, each implementing entity assesses the results of its regular programme activities and conducts periodic evaluations. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs engaged the support of an independent consultant for the preparation of the eighth progress report, covering 2022. The report is expected to be finalized in May 2023 and will provide information on, inter alia: (a) results achieved; (b) linkages between the regular programme, the United Nations Development Account, extrabudgetary resources and the resident coordinator system; (c) the programme's outreach; and (d) the programme's delivery modalities. The consultant is expected to work with all 11 implementing entities to come up with a minimum common standard for reporting on their activities under the regular programme of technical cooperation to serve as a basis for all future progress reports.

Office of Internal Oversight Services evaluation of section 23

- 23.23 In response to recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs V.103, V.111 and V.112 of its report ([A/77/7](#)) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [77/262](#), the Office of Internal Oversight Services is undertaking an evaluation of the regular programme of technical cooperation. The evaluation is expected to assess, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, effectiveness and coherence of regular programme support to Member States to enhance their capacities to formulate, revise and/or implement policies, guidance, strategies and laws. The work on the evaluation started in the first quarter of 2023 and will continue during the rest of 2023, with the outcome being a final report that would be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in May 2024, followed by subsequent reviews by the Advisory Committee and the Assembly.

Overview of resources for the regular budget

- 23.24 As reflected in table 23.1 and table 23.2, the overall resources proposed for 2024 amount to \$44,874,500 before recosting and reflect an increase of \$1,500,000, or 3.5 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. Resource changes result from other changes. The overall increase takes into account anticipated additional demand for support in specific areas, including in the context of continuing recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the anticipated increase in the volume of requests for assistance from Member States, all implementing entities would provide additional support to Member States, for example, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs expects to provide targeted capacity development in tax and domestic resource mobilization, infrastructure asset management and risk-informed development cooperation.
- 23.25 The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 23.1
Evolution of financial resources by component, programme and main category of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | Technical adjustments | New/ expanded mandates | Other | Total Percentage | | |
| I. Sectoral advisory services | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Economic and social affairs | 9 428.9 | 9 927.3 | – | – | 574.6 | 574.6 | 5.8 | 10 501.9 |
| 2. Trade and development | 1 707.3 | 2 025.2 | – | – | 56.0 | 56.0 | 2.8 | 2 081.2 |
| 3. Human settlements | 1 118.9 | 1 362.1 | – | – | 37.7 | 37.7 | 2.8 | 1 399.8 |
| 4. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice | 967.2 | 1 133.3 | – | – | 31.4 | 31.4 | 2.8 | 1 164.7 |
| 5. Human rights | 2 342.4 | 2 733.5 | – | – | 75.6 | 75.6 | 2.8 | 2 809.1 |
| 6. Humanitarian assistance | 707.3 | 779.0 | – | – | 21.6 | 21.6 | 2.8 | 800.6 |
| Subtotal, I | 16 272.0 | 17 960.4 | – | – | 796.9 | 796.9 | 4.4 | 18 757.3 |
| II. Regional and subregional advisory services | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Economic and social development in Africa | 7 805.9 | 9 306.7 | – | – | 257.5 | 257.5 | 2.8 | 9 564.2 |
| 2. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific | 3 395.8 | 3 752.7 | – | – | 103.8 | 103.8 | 2.8 | 3 856.5 |
| 3. Economic development in Europe | 2 334.2 | 2 542.1 | – | – | 70.3 | 70.3 | 2.8 | 2 612.4 |
| 4. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean | 4 066.5 | 5 019.0 | – | – | 138.9 | 138.9 | 2.8 | 5 157.9 |
| 5. Economic and social development in Western Asia | 4 951.8 | 4 793.6 | – | – | 132.6 | 132.6 | 2.8 | 4 926.2 |
| Subtotal, II | 22 554.2 | 25 414.1 | – | – | 703.1 | 703.1 | 2.8 | 26 117.2 |
| Total | 38 826.2 | 43 374.5 | – | – | 1 500.0 | 1 500.0 | 3.5 | 44 874.5 |

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

**Table 23.2
Requirements by budget class**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| <i>Budget class</i> | <i>2022 expenditure</i> | <i>2023 appropriation</i> | <i>Changes</i> | | <i>2024 estimate (before recosting)</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | |
| Other staff costs | 20 768.8 | 23 889.4 | 116.9 | 0.5 | 24 006.3 |
| Consultants | 6 442.8 | 5 237.5 | 550.2 | 10.5 | 5 787.7 |
| Experts | 754.0 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of representatives | 17.1 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 2 978.2 | 2 588.6 | 496.1 | 19.2 | 3 084.7 |
| Contractual services | 1 461.4 | 1 456.6 | 144.2 | 9.9 | 1 600.8 |
| General operating expenses | 990.4 | 518.1 | (103.0) | (19.9) | 415.1 |
| Supplies and materials | 23.6 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 40.0 | 0.7 |
| Furniture and equipment | 174.0 | 22.7 | 34.3 | 151.1 | 57.0 |
| Improvement of premises | 8.6 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 5 207.3 | 9 661.1 | 261.1 | 2.7 | 9 922.2 |
| Total | 38 826.2 | 43 374.5 | 1 500.0 | 3.5 | 44 874.5 |

**Figure 23.I
Distribution of proposed resources for 2024 by implementing entity**

(Millions of United States dollars)

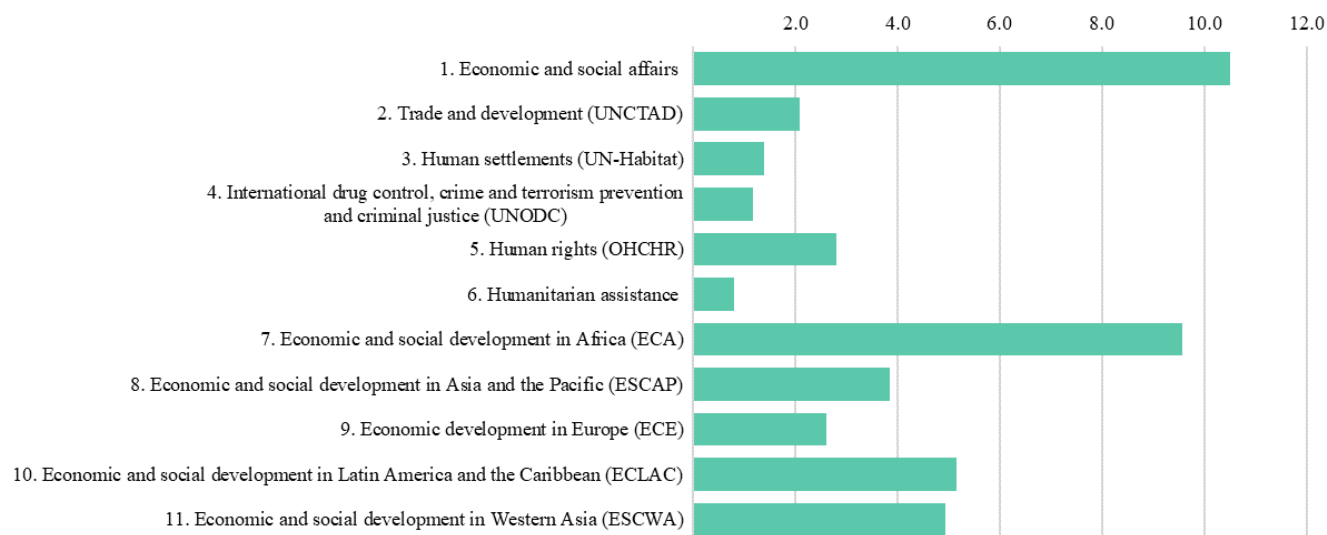
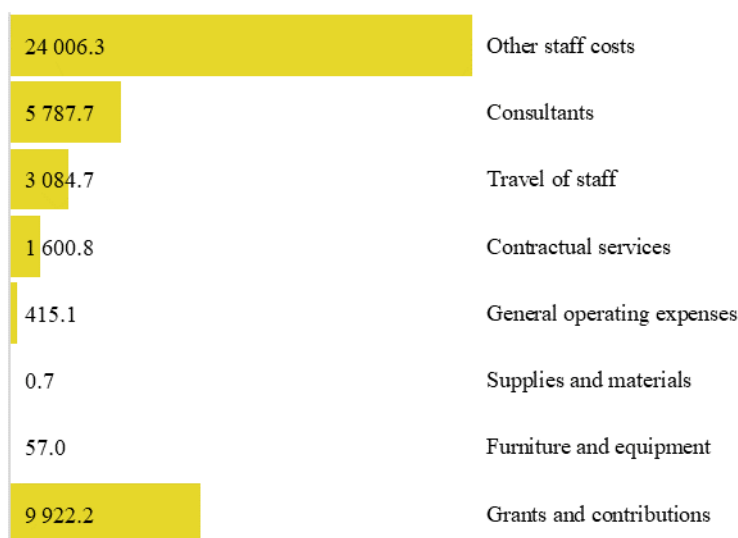


Figure 23.II
Distribution of proposed resources for 2024 (before recosting)

(Thousands of United States dollars)



I. Sectoral advisory services

1. Economic and social affairs

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.26 The activities under economic and social affairs are implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of the Department: subprogramme 2, Inclusive social development; subprogramme 3, Sustainable development; subprogramme 4, Statistics; subprogramme 5, Population; subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy; subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government; subprogramme 8, Sustainable forest management; and subprogramme 9, Financing for sustainable development.

23.27 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 9\)](#)).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.28 The Department of Economic and Social Affairs leverages many different engagement channels to promote the regular programme of technical cooperation. Its website provides information on its projects, approach and funding modalities and houses an interactive map as well as audiovisual material. Targeted engagement with government officials, including permanent representatives, from developing countries also takes place in the context of intergovernmental meetings, conferences and workshops, for example, via sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Tax Committee, the Commission on Population and Development. Given the demand-driven nature of the regular programme, raising awareness of the Department's offering for Member States is integral for all communications.

- 23.29 The Department of Economic and Social Affairs also builds on its convening power and has put in place global networks to discuss pertinent issues and raise aware of the products and services available. Its Statistic Division uses the Global Network of Data Officers and Statisticians as a strategic outreach tool to engage with national statistical offices and respective United Nations country teams. The network has helped to advance several capacity-development objectives, by sharing suggestions for modernizing and strengthening national statistical systems; applying statistical standards and new data architecture for data sharing, exchange and integration; and facilitating the use of new technology and new data sources in statistical production processes. Similarly, systematic outreach on the support offered by the regular programme of technical cooperation for capacity-development and technical assistance has provided information about the United Nations policy and support on tax and domestic resource mobilization for sustainable development.
- 23.30 The Department of Economic and Social Affairs Digital Learning Centre is a curated repository of the Department's digital capacity-building portfolio, which includes self-paced courses and microlearning and is open to anyone interested in learning together with our experts. We see digital engagement and connecting with our stakeholders through the platform as a privilege that allows us to overcome time and space restrictions and offer our content to a much larger audience.

Complementarity with the resident coordinator system

- 23.31 The current approach of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to country-level support, including interventions funded by the regular programme of technical cooperation, is fully aligned with the new role and functions of the resident coordinator system. Activities funded by the regular programme are triggered by direct government requests for the Department's expertise or by resident coordinators' requests, either on behalf of a Government or to address capacity-development needs expressed in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that cannot be fulfilled by regional and/or United Nations country team entities. The implementation of the Department's activities funded by the regular programme is governed by the Department's standard operating procedures for country-level engagement in the context of the new resident coordinator system, which were published in May 2020. When responding to direct government requests for the Department's expertise, the standard operating procedures require the Department's staff to inform the resident coordinator and the United Nations country team to ensure coordination with existing team efforts and enable the necessary changes in the Cooperation Framework and country team configuration to embed the capacity at the country level, in accordance with the Cooperation Framework guidelines. The participation of the Department in the formulation and implantation of the Cooperation Framework, including as a country team member, has provided an opportunity to establish closer collaboration and partnerships with country team entities for the implementation of specific outputs or suboutputs of the Cooperation Framework, including through joint programmes and resource mobilization.

Review of high-level positions at headquarters duty stations (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

- 23.32 The main function of interregional advisers based at headquarters duty stations is to provide technical expertise, facilitate the transfer to Governments of knowledge from global deliberations and latest analytical work, and contribute to the formulation, assessment and/or evaluation of national policies, strategies, programmes and projects of Member States, at their request. The roles and functions are reflected in the job descriptions and terms of reference and are classified at the appropriate level. Any new appointments and extensions of appointments of interregional advisers are considered annually on the basis of the departmental panel review and recommendation and by the Head of the Department for approval prior to the submission of the budget.

Response provided to Member States' requests for support in 2022

Strengthened economic analysis and knowledge of development policy options for accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the recovery from the pandemic and the leveraging of megatrends (result 1 of subprogramme 6 of A/78/6 (Sect. 9))

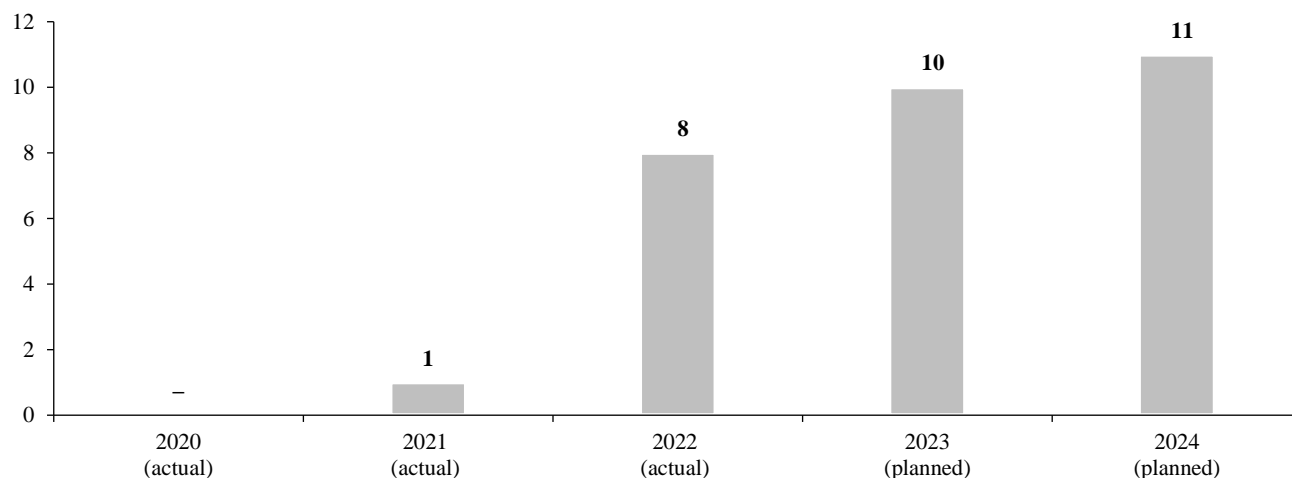
- 23.33 In 2022, subprogramme 6, Economic analysis and policy, collaborated with Governments and resident coordinator offices to respond to requests for capacity-building on the use of climate, land use, energy and water systems methodology in sub-Saharan Africa and African small island developing States. The climate, land use, energy and water systems tool provides a means to analyse and assess the interlinkages that exist among energy, water and agricultural systems, as well as their impacts on and vulnerability to climate change. The capacity-building on climate, land use, energy and water systems built on the successful implementation of the United Nations Development Account project “Enhancing policy coherence for the Sustainable Development Goals through integrated assessments and institutional strengthening in Africa”.
- 23.34 The subprogramme also responded to requests from Member States to further develop an enhanced monitoring mechanism, including a crisis response process, in line with the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (see General Assembly resolution 76/258, annex, para. 284). The objective was to improve the effectiveness of the monitoring of crisis indicators, including those that can present socioeconomic impacts. Member States in various formal stages of graduation showed strong interests in and commitments to participating in the mechanism and requested continued technical support by the subprogramme on the issue. The activity was closely linked to two longer-term projects funded by the United Nations Development Account and the United Nations peace and development trust fund. Consultation meetings and workshops were held in several countries on the graduation and monitoring of least developed countries financed under the regular programme of technical cooperation.
- 23.35 The above-mentioned work contributed to strengthened economic analysis and knowledge of development policy options for accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the recovery from the pandemic and the leveraging of megatrends, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 6, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 9)) (see table 23.3 and figure 23.III).

Table 23.3

Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Member States have access to policy recommendations on addressing the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on sustainable development | Member States benefited from increased knowledge and analysis on the economic and social benefits and challenges posed by new technologies | Member States have access to policy recommendations on two new thematic issues: the influence of new technologies on the structure of the economy and the impact of ongoing population ageing | Member States will have access to an up-to-date analysis on inequalities, as well as on other major socioeconomic challenges, and sustainable development policy recommendations to resolve them | Member States will have access to an up-to-date analysis of the major challenges to sustainable development stemming from the recurrent crises, and policy recommendations to resolve them |

Figure 23.III
Performance measure: number of least developed countries participating in the enhanced monitoring mechanism



Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Interdisciplinary look at implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – the *Global Sustainable Development Report*

(result 2 of subprogramme 3 (A/78/6 (Sect. 9)))

- 23.36 In 2024, subprogramme 3, sustainable development, will focus on assisting countries in providing the following: (a) technical advice on policy options and their implications, aimed at generating countries' adoption or launch of transformative policies and new commitments to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, with people at the forefront; (b) capacity-building in the four areas identified in the 2023 *Global Sustainable Development Report* (innovation, strategic direction, impediments and disturbances); (c) training for government officials and policy practitioners on national strategies and plans of action, including on localization of the Goals; science, technology and innovation for Goals-related road maps; and mobilizing multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships to accelerate implementation of the Goals; and (d) advisory services and policy advice, technical support, technical cooperation and assistance to the least developed, developing and middle-income countries in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 6 acceleration actions.
- 23.37 The subprogramme will pursue its capacity-development goals and objectives by working closely with United Nations country teams and resident coordinators and United Nations regional economic commissions and other partners, building on complementarity and thereby boosting the capacity of developing countries and middle-income countries to develop and implement national development strategies and plans and to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target date of 2030, leaving no one behind.
- 23.38 The expected responses in 2024 would contribute to an interdisciplinary look at implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 9)) (see table 23.4).

Table 23.4
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Member States decide to use the levers and entry points of the 2019 report as the framework for the thematic review of the Sustainable Development Goals during the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development</p> <p>The Secretary-General appoints a new group of 15 scientists for the preparation of the 2023 <i>Global Sustainable Development Report</i></p> | <p>The new independent group of scientists gave a briefing to Member States during the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development with the outline of the report finalized</p> <p>A call for inputs is widely circulated to secure evidence from stakeholders, including underrepresented communities</p> | <p>Member States received a briefing by the independent group of scientists during the 2022 high-level political forum, and participated in regional consultations, providing context-specific insights to inform the <i>Global Sustainable Development Report</i></p> | <p>The 2023 <i>Global Sustainable Development Report</i> is formally launched in September</p> <p>A first series of global and regional briefings will start immediately after the launch, with a focus on localizing the global calls for action to support implementation in different contexts</p> | <p>Member States integrate the findings of the report into their national development strategies and policies</p> <p>Appointment of a new group of 15 scientists for the preparation of the 2027 <i>Global Sustainable Development Report</i></p> |

Enhanced innovation and digital government transformation for effective and inclusive public service delivery

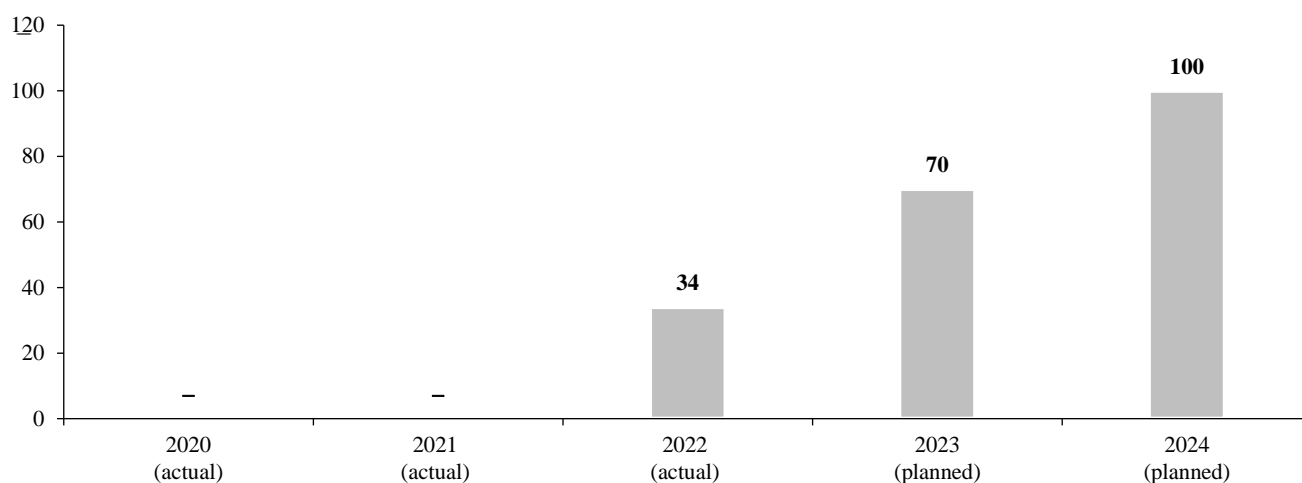
(result 3 of subprogramme 7 (A/78/6 (Sect. 9)))

- 23.39 In 2024, subprogramme 7, Public institutions and digital government, will focus on expanding capacity-development support for the following: (a) strengthened governance and public institutions and improved human resource capacities in support for the decade of action, including through partnerships with regional commissions and the resident coordinator system; (b) equipping public servants with the capacities to realize the 2030 Agenda including strengthened skills on leadership, institutional arrangements for policy coherence, transparency and integrity in the public service, digital government, digital transformation and innovations in public service delivery; (c) promoting innovation in public governance; (d) supporting supreme audit institutions on auditing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and (e) promoting and leveraging public governance innovative practices and digital government strategies.
- 23.40 Digitalization continues to be an important tool to accelerate innovation and the provision of public service delivery, as countries struggle to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to requests from countries, the digital government capacity-assessment tool will continue to support Governments to identify challenges and enablers for digital government transformation and to prepare action plans and road maps.
- 23.41 In addition, the curriculum on governance for the Sustainable Development Goals will continue to be applied through a train-the-trainers approach in order to reach a larger audience of civil servants in support of innovation and digital government transformation. This work will complement a United Nations Development Account project on digital government transformation in the Caribbean region. The subprogramme will maximize its use of resources and coverage by using virtual and hybrid meeting formats whenever possible. It will also continue to work closely with Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams and partner with regional economic commissions, while leveraging country offices of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the Republic of Korea.

23.42 The expected responses in 2024 would contribute to enhanced innovation and digital government transformation for effective and inclusive public service delivery, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 7, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 9)) (see figure 23.IV).

Figure 23.IV

Performance measure: number of civil servants supporting the preparation of action plans and road maps on innovation and digital government (annual)



B. Deliverables

23.43 Table 23.5 contains a list of all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.5

Department of Economic and Social Affairs: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 268 | 229 | 347 | 334 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.6

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Other staff costs | 6 132.5 | 7 093.1 | (173.8) | (2.5) | 6 919.3 |
| Consultants | 1 061.3 | 596.8 | 325.9 | 54.6 | 922.7 |
| Experts | 141.1 | – | – | – | – |

Part V Regional cooperation for development

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Travel of staff | 723.2 | 431.2 | 366.1 | 84.9 | 797.3 |
| Contractual services | 345.8 | 111.0 | 110.0 | 99.1 | 221.0 |
| General operating expenses | 248.5 | 158.1 | (114.6) | (72.5) | 43.5 |
| Supplies and materials | 0.1 | – | – | – | – |
| Furniture and equipment | 18.7 | 15.7 | 34.3 | 218.5 | 50.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 757.8 | 1 521.4 | 26.7 | 1.8 | 1 548.1 |
| Total | 9 428.9 | 9 927.3 | 574.6 | 5.8 | 10 501.9 |

23.44 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$10,501,900 and reflect a resource increase of \$574,600, or 5.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase is attributable mainly to increases under consultants (\$325,900), travel of staff (\$366,100) and contractual services (\$110,000), offset in part by decreases under other staff costs (\$173,800) and general operating expenses (\$114,600), in line with expected demands from Member States in 2024.

2. Trade and development

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.45 The activities under trade and development are implemented by UNCTAD. The programmatic activities are implemented under all subprogrammes of UNCTAD.

23.46 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 12)).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.47 In line with the demand-driven nature of the regular programme of technical cooperation, UNCTAD raises awareness of the opportunities for developing countries to gain access to assistance from the programme resources through outreach and UNCTAD notifications on various training offerings, in addition to face-to-face meetings with government officials, including permanent representatives, from developing countries in the context of intergovernmental meetings, conferences and various capacity-building events organized by the entity. Those formal and informal settings pave the way for assessments of country needs and to match them with subject-matter experts. In this context, on the provision of training for government officials and policy practitioners on key issues on the international economic agenda (the “paragraph 166” course), UNCTAD coordinates its delivery to ensure all subprogrammes are engaged in the assessments, regional economic commissions and the host countries. UNCTAD also works closely with the permanent missions to the United Nations based in Geneva with respect to the processes involved in the nominations of capital-based policymakers for regional courses, on the one hand, and the selection of topics for short courses, on the other hand. For instance, both the UNCTAD notifications for regional and short courses are channelled via the permanent missions in Geneva, with the former geared toward capitals and the latter toward Geneva-based delegates. In addition, UNCTAD works extensively with the host countries on the coordination and substance, including national and regional economic trajectory experiences, to relay and enhance knowledge among policymakers from across developing regions.

This ensures the delivery of comprehensive training. Selected participants – policymakers – are the main beneficiaries of this capacity-building programme.

- 23.48 UNCTAD has also made constant efforts to disseminate the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation to partner universities and think tanks such as the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, the Nelson Mandela Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, and other universities to deliver presentations and disseminate research findings on specific areas of work such as the rules of origin and the geographical indications. In the case of its Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) programme, UNCTAD participates in a large number of partnerships and events with other international organizations, such as World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, etc, which further enhances its outreach efforts. The programme's staff is furthermore in regular contact with customs administrations of recipient and non-recipient countries, as well with regional economic communities, including through a network of dedicated regional project officers that cover each major developing region.

Response provided to Member States' requests for support in 2022

Women digital entrepreneurs empowered to build a more inclusive digital economy (result 1 of subprogramme 4 ([A/78/6 \(Sect.12\)](#)))

- 23.49 Subprogramme 4, Technology and logistics, contributes to harnessing innovation and technology, including e-commerce and the digital economy, improving trade logistics and increasing human capacity for inclusive and sustainable trade and development in developing countries and economies in transition. In 2022, the subprogramme deepened its engagement with developing countries on assessing the state-of-play of their e-commerce enabling environment through eTrade Readiness Assessments and assisting them in the development of E-commerce Strategies and Action Plans to serve as road maps of how e-commerce can support their strategic development goals.
- 23.50 Four eTrade Readiness Assessments, including one at the regional level, were completed in 2022 – for Jordan, Kenya, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Tunisia – bringing the total number of Assessments conducted to date to 32. In Kenya, the Assessment resulted in the development of a draft national e-commerce strategy in consultation with public and private stakeholders. The strategy aims to be complementary to the regional East African Community e-commerce strategy, which draws on findings from recent studies and assessments conducted by various development partners, including the Assessments of the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, as well as the e-commerce strategy of Rwanda (all led by UNCTAD). In ECOWAS, the regional Assessment built on the eight Assessments undertaken by UNCTAD for ECOWAS member States between 2018 and 2020 and was the first step towards the development of a regional e-commerce strategy – the first in West Africa.
- 23.51 In 2022, UNCTAD continued to foster synergies among development partners, facilitate access to e-commerce capacity-building development solutions and monitor progress on the implementation of eTrade Readiness Assessment recommendations in beneficiary countries through the Assessment implementation support mechanism. The second review was released in 2022 during the e-commerce week and confirmed a positive trend in implementation, with an average implementation rate of 59 per cent for the 14 participating countries, up from 50 per cent the year before.
- 23.52 Support offered by the regular programme of technical cooperation complemented the work undertaken through the regular budget for section 12, which emphasizes the specific needs and critical weaknesses of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, with regard to national e-commerce ecosystems with the aim of proposing concrete action for Governments to improve their e-commerce ecosystems.

23.53 The above-mentioned work contributed to women digital entrepreneurs being empowered to build a more inclusive digital economy, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 4, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (*A/78/6 (Sect. 12)*) (see table 23.7).

Table 23.7
Performance measure

| <i>2020 (actual)</i> | <i>2021 (actual)</i> | <i>2022 (actual)</i> | <i>2023 (planned)</i> | <i>2024 (planned)</i> |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Improved business and leadership skills of 50 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities | Improved business and leadership skills of a cumulative total of 200 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities and three new communities established, in South-East Asia, East Africa and the Western Balkans | Improved business and leadership skills of a cumulative total of 240 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities throughout six active Trade for Women communities | Improved business and leadership skills of a cumulative total of 300 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities. At least four eTrade for Women communities active across regions | Improved business and leadership skills of a cumulative total of 400 women digital entrepreneurs participating in eTrade for Women activities. At least six eTrade for Women communities active across regions |

Expected response to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Holistic approach to effective and integrated policy responses in a changing global economy – the “paragraph 166” programme

Enhanced policymaking capacities to facilitate economic diversification through increased data capacities in services trade

(result 3 of subprogramme 3 (*A/78/6 (Sect. 12)*))

- 23.54 In 2024, all subprogrammes are expected to continue to support government officials and policy practitioners in developing countries on key issues on the international economic agenda, with a view to increasing their capacity to build more effective and integrated policy responses to a changing global economy, as mandated in paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action and subsequently reconfirmed by the Sao Paulo Consensus, the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Nairobi Maafikiano of 2016. Most recently, the “paragraph 166” course was given special attention by Member States in the context of the technical cooperation work of UNCTAD, in the Bridgetown Covenant, the outcome document of its fifteenth ministerial conference, recognizing the activities under paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action to be of great importance and utility.
- 23.55 Following positive feedback from Member States, UNCTAD is planning to continue to provide its flagship “paragraph 166” course on key issues on the international economic agenda, for policymakers, Geneva-based delegates and other stakeholders from developing and transition economies. The course would continue to be based on the development perspective of UNCTAD and focus on the linkages between trade, finance, investment, technology, logistics and macroeconomic policies in the context of major economic trends and debates in multilateral forums. It would also emphasize the various approaches that countries have taken to derive maximum development gains and would incorporate recovery and resilience, in response to and following the global pandemic, into its overall curricula, which continue to evolve to reflect the needs of policymakers in developing regions.
- 23.56 In response, more specifically, the subprogramme would:
- (a) Continue to address in the curriculum the challenges that developing economies face, including coping with the economic consequences of crises and building resilience and response to shocks;

- (b) Further develop the modules of the capacity-building programme focusing on development, development policies and the role of international trade and finance in a globalized world; on harnessing benefits from trade and changing dynamics in the multilateral trading system, as well as trade logistics, regional trade agreements; on the digital economy; and on enhancing the productive capacity of developing countries through foreign direct investment, enterprise development and science, technology and innovation;
- (c) Roll out three regional courses in three of the five developing regions, covering African economies (to be held in Nairobi), Latin America and the Caribbean (to be held in Buenos Aires) and Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Islamabad, all of which will be tailored to the specific requirements of each region;
- (d) Further continue to implement capacity-building activities for developing countries in order to invest in human capital for sustainable development and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda;
- (e) Carry out e-learning components, evaluations and other aspects, in addition to the above-mentioned activities, which will represent an additional cost the programme must cover in 2024 and subsequent years.

23.57 The response would complement the planned work of all UNCTAD subprogrammes to be undertaken through the regular budget of section 12 to further enhance the capacity of policymakers to formulate policies and provide advisory services in the context of major economic trends and debates in multilateral forums, emphasizing various approaches that countries have taken to derive maximum development gains.

23.58 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to results under all five subprogrammes, including enhanced policymaking capacities to facilitate economic diversification through increased data capacities in services trade, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure of at least three additional countries that adopt, revise or implement services trade-related policies informed by better data collection and use, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 12)) (see table 23.8).

Table 23.8
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Policymakers from the ECOWAS region have increased capacities to formulate national services trade policies in, inter alia, tourism and energy services | Policymakers from Morocco and Paraguay have increased capacities to formulate national services trade policies in, inter alia, transport and logistics services | Member States benefit from the establishment an open-ended and time-bound Working Group on data for services trade and development policies | At least two additional countries adopt, revise or implement services trade-related policies informed by better data collection and use | At least three additional countries adopt, revise or implement services trade-related policies informed by better data collection and use |

B. Deliverables

23.59 Table 23.9 contains all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.9

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 46 | 51 | 46 | 51 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.10

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Other staff costs | 1 116.5 | 1 326.8 | – | – | 1 326.8 |
| Consultants | 6.1 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 256.4 | 234.3 | 56.0 | 23.9 | 290.3 |
| Contractual services | 14.8 | – | – | – | – |
| General operating expenses | 3.9 | – | – | – | – |
| Furniture and equipment | 1.3 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 308.4 | 464.1 | – | – | 464.1 |
| Total | 1 707.3 | 2 025.2 | 56.0 | 2.8 | 2 081.2 |

23.60 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$2,081,200 and reflect a resource increase of \$56,000, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increases under travel of staff (\$56,000) are to provide additional resources to support the work of regional advisers in providing effective and timely technical advice on policy options and their implications, as well as technical assistance in trade, investment, e-commerce and other related areas, in response to the anticipated increase in the volume of requests for support from Member States, emphasizing the need to continue to assist developing countries in systematically assessing the state-of-play of their e-commerce enabling environment and overcoming barriers identified, including through eTrade Readiness Assessments and implementation support, e-commerce strategies and action plans.

3. Human settlements

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.61 The activities under human settlements are implemented by UN-Habitat. The programmatic activities are implemented under all subprogrammes of UN-Habitat.

23.62 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 15)).

Expected additional requests for support from Member States for 2024

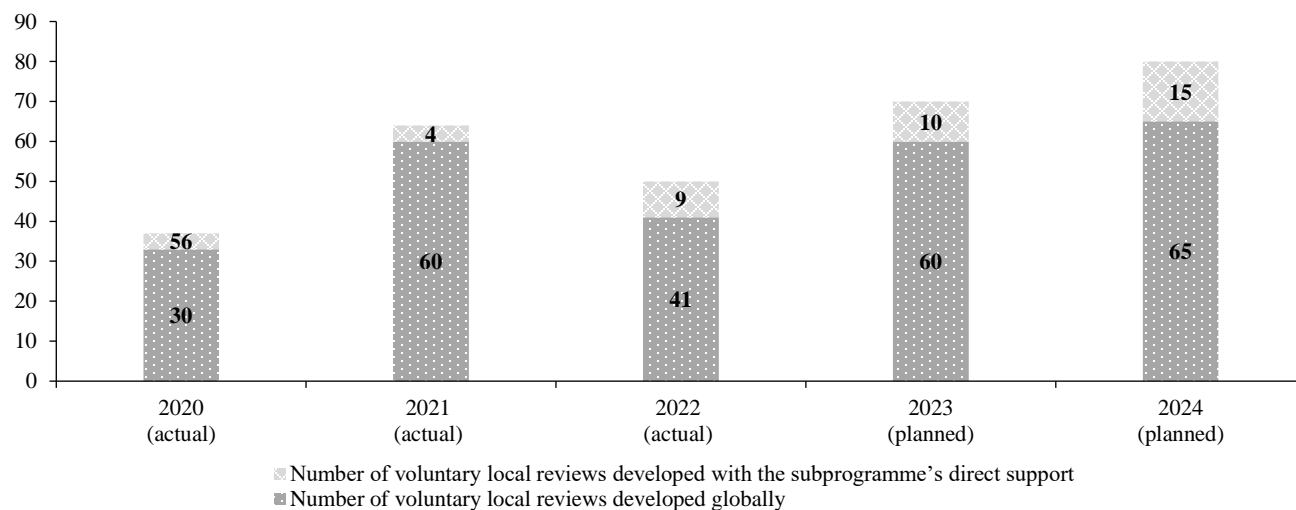
- 23.63 An increase in the volume of requests for assistance in the housing and sustainable urbanization sectors is anticipated from at least 10 cities in eight member States in the Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia and Eastern European regions in support of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and investing in the impact of the Goals. Moreover, continued requests are expected in support of urban recovery processes in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus regions.

Response provided to Member States' requests for support in 2022**Voluntary local reviews to enhance the shared prosperity of cities and regions globally through Sustainable Development Goals localization**

(result 3 of subprogramme 2 (A/78/6 (Sect. 15)))

- 23.64 In 2022, the regular programme of technical cooperation received requests for support to mobilize technical advisory services for sustainable urban development from a wide range of regions, countries and locations in Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), Africa (Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia), Central Asia and Asia-Pacific (Azerbaijan, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Brazil) and Western Europe and other States (Portugal, Spain, Türkiye and Ukraine). The subprogramme provided technical advisory services and support, including face-to-face and web-based collaboration measures, and organized capacity-building and validation workshops, providing the evidence base for adequate policies and their respective implementation.
- 23.65 In 2022, as COVID-19 restrictions continued to be applied in selected countries, the regular programme of technical cooperation provided technical advisory services to the second session of the Sustainable Development Goals Cities global conference in Shanghai, China, during the celebration of World Cities Day 2022. In total, 230 participants from 55 countries and territories across the world joined the conference, which widely engaging local governments and various stakeholders at the local level.
- 23.66 Moreover, subprogramme 2, Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions, supported the achievement of enhanced inclusive economic development by guiding local and regional governments in the process of developing voluntary local reviews. The support of this subprogramme has contributed to catalysing the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in additional cities, following the demand indicated by expressions of interest in joining this global movement. UN-Habitat has been providing assistance in technical cooperation, strategic partnership, knowledge development, learning and capacity-building, and global advocacy.
- 23.67 The above-mentioned work contributed to voluntary local reviews enhancing the shared prosperity of cities and regions globally through localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 2, and the related performance, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 15)) (see figure 23.V).

Figure 23.V
Performance measure: number of voluntary local reviews prepared by local and regional governments (annual)



Expected response to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Implementation of the outcomes of the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the New Urban Agenda, and strengthened capacity of cities to address inequalities and bridge social, spatial and digital divides

(two results in sections on strategy of [A/78/6 \(Sect. 15\)](#))

- 23.68 For 2024, Member States are expected to increase requests for technical advisory services building on the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, which calls for more integrated programming, aligned with the United Nations development system through common country analyses and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. This should result in more transformative action that allows countries and cities to accelerate their implementation of the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and other global agendas as set forth also in the decade of action. Particular focus will be on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in at least six selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South-East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- 23.69 UN-Habitat will continue to support the implementation of its strategic plan for the period 2020–2023, as extended to 2025 by the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023, domains of change and the Sustainable Development Goals Cities flagship initiative by further developing and promoting the use of the global urban monitoring framework data tools, local institutional capacity-development tools and the Cities Investment Facility, which is jointly implemented with the United Nations Capital Investment Fund. This will enhance sustainable urbanization practices and accelerate the implementation of the Goals in cities, with a focus on achieving more inclusive societies and cities and long-term recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. UN-Habitat anticipates that, by 2024, around 100 cities will have been included in the Sustainable Development Goals Cities programme.
- 23.70 In response to the anticipated requests in 2024, UN-Habitat would:
 - (a) Broaden the scope of technical advisory services and capacity-building activities to cover digital transformation aimed at accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in target countries;
 - (b) Develop and digitalize all normative tools relevant to the implementation of the five UN-Habitat flagship programmes, which are designed to support Member States that are developing countries in achieving the urban-related Goals at scale;

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

- (c) Further develop and refine the methodology and guidance material on integrated national and local urban development frameworks, based on lessons learned from pilot initiatives, and carry out additional capacity-building activities as required;
 - (d) Promote technical cooperation and knowledge exchange between regions, including through the roll-out of the Shanghai Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, the Shanghai Adapted Index and the Shanghai Manual 2024.
- 23.71 These responses would complement the planned work of the UN-Habitat subprogrammes to be undertaken through the regular budget for section 15 in order to further develop and implement integrated national urban policies.
- 23.72 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the respective Goals as well as the New Urban Agenda, in addition to the strengthened capacity of cities to address inequalities and bridge social, spatial and digital divides, which is a result reflected in the section on strategy under subprogramme 2, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 15)).

B. Deliverables

23.73 Table 23.11 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.11

United Nations Human Settlements Programme: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| <i>Category and subcategory</i> | <i>2022 planned</i> | <i>2022 actual</i> | <i>2023 planned</i> | <i>2024 planned</i> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 26 | 26 | 28 | 28 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.12

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | <i>2022 expenditure</i> | <i>2023 appropriation</i> | <i>Changes</i> | | <i>2024 estimate (before recosting)</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | |
| Other staff costs | 870.7 | 979.6 | – | – | 979.6 |
| Consultants | 111.8 | 171.5 | 15.1 | 8.8 | 186.6 |
| Travel of staff | 64.5 | 79.8 | 12.5 | 15.7 | 92.3 |
| Contractual services | 26.5 | 98.2 | 9.9 | 10.1 | 108.1 |
| General operating expenses | 30.6 | 25.5 | – | – | 25.5 |
| Supplies and materials | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 40.0 | 0.7 |
| Furniture and equipment | 10.1 | 7.0 | – | – | 7.0 |
| Grants and contributions | 4.5 | – | – | – | – |
| Total | 1 118.9 | 1 362.1 | 37.7 | 2.8 | 1 399.8 |

- 23.74 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$1,399,800 and reflect an increase of \$37,700, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increases under consultants, travel of staff and contractual services are to provide additional technical expertise for the catalytic funds made available for each of the four regional offices and in support of the emerging regional presence in the Eastern Europe and Central Asian regions. Moreover, an anticipated increase in the number of requests for technical advisory services to urban recovery processes in the Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus regions would make an increase under travel necessary. Furthermore, the proposed increase under contractual services would allow for the development of an urban recovery framework tool kit and its application to Eastern European urban crisis contexts, as well as support to countries affected by natural disasters.

4. International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.75 The activities under international drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice are implemented by UNODC. The programmatic activities are implemented under subprogramme 8, Technical cooperation and field support.
- 23.76 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the following subprogrammes: subprogramme 1: Countering transnational organized crime; subprogramme 2: A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the world drug problem; subprogramme 3: Countering corruption; subprogramme 4: Terrorism prevention; subprogramme 5: Justice; subprogramme 6: Research, trend analysis and forensics; subprogramme 7: Policy support; and subprogramme 8: Technical cooperation and field support, and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (*A/78/6 (Sect. 16)*).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.77 The outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States are provided through regular dialogues with national counterparts; national campaigns to observe the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, World Day against Trafficking in Persons and the International Anti-Corruption Day; and fundraising initiatives and strategic partnerships with international financial institutions, international organizations and the private sector specifically focused on country or regional contexts. UNODC also liaises with United Nations country team members to discuss pending requests for the regular programme of technical cooperation, and to devise coordinated approaches to Member States' needs that fall under areas of the regular programme.

Response provided to Member States' requests for support in 2022

Enhanced social reintegration and job opportunities for people in prison in Mexico (as reflected in programme performance in 2022 in subprogramme 8)

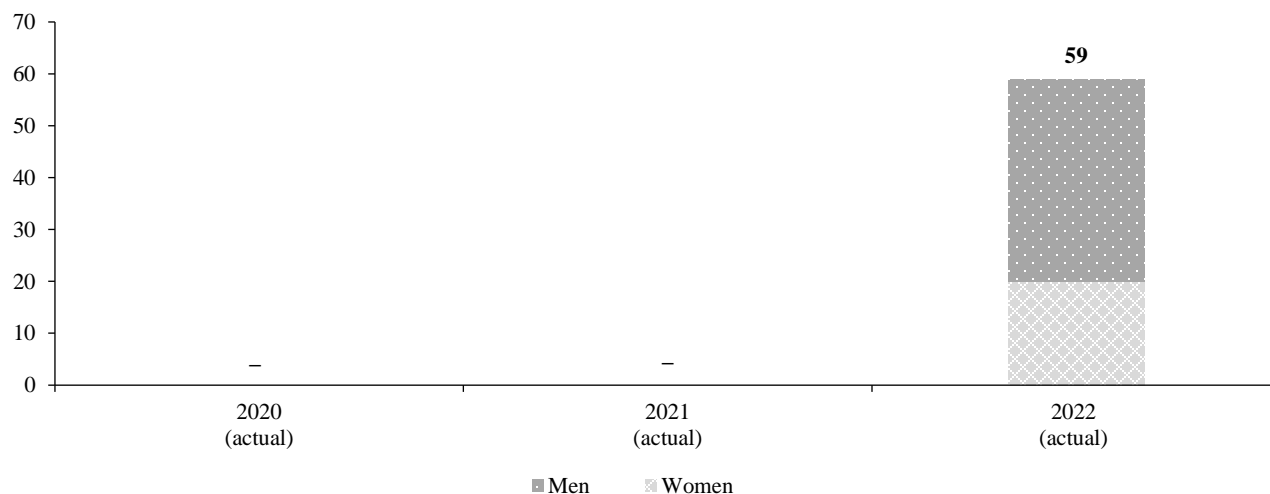
- 23.78 UNODC receives a number of requests from Member States, in a broad range of areas covering the entirety of the UNODC mandate. Annually, UNODC supports policy advice and technical capacity through an interregional adviser's full-time work and missions, as well as 25 field projects that are devised to support specific actions. As an example of the 25 initiatives funded by the regular programme of technical cooperation in 2022, UNODC received a request to build capacities of detained women and men in a Mexico prison with a vocational training certification and to increase their employability in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. In addition to discrimination and stigmatization of prisoners, the social reintegration of offenders is hindered by a lack of employment skills and job opportunities, leading to further isolation and an increased likelihood of recidivism.

The initiative provided people deprived of their liberty in prison with tools to tackle biases and prejudices, as well as vocational training and job search support. For instance, in Mexico City, UNODC offered job-qualifying training and certification on rainwater harvesting systems and solar panel installation as part of a wider, public-private partnership re-entry effort. In 2022, 59 inmates (39 male and 20 female) were certified as qualified installers, which enhanced their chances of employability upon release. A further 30 women inmates were given complementary financial education.

23.79 The above-mentioned work contributed to the result of enhanced social reintegration and job opportunities for people in prison in Mexico, which is reflected in the programme performance section of subprogramme 8, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 16)) (see figure 23.VI).

Figure 23.VI

Performance measure: number of detained women and men in Mexico City with vocational certification and increased employability (annual)



Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Strengthened rule of law and protection of those who are vulnerable in small island developing States in the Pacific

(result 2 of subprogramme 8 (A/78/6 (Sect. 16)))

23.80 For 2024, UNODC expects to receive an increasing number of requests from Member States across a number of themes. In response to those requests, UNODC plans to respond by providing policy advice and technical support to developing countries, countries in transition and post-conflict countries in the following areas: (a) acceding to and implementing international instruments on drug and crime control; (b) strengthening and reforming their criminal justice systems in line with norms, standards and existing good practices (e.g. South-South cooperation); and (c) supporting capacity development of national counterparts in the areas of drug control, tackling organized crime, terrorism prevention and criminal justice. In that context, UNODC would arrange technical workshops and deliver training to criminal justice practitioners, policymakers and professionals in specialized areas; hold expert group meetings; and undertake strategic missions and assessments on a specific country or thematic need, with the aim of engaging in the subsequent design of upscaled, longer-term technical assistance programmes. Through the regular programme of technical cooperation funds, UNODC would focus on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as on vulnerable groups and fragile States' crises.

- 23.81 UNODC would work on improving data collection systems on human trafficking in six small island developing States in the Pacific and enhance South-South cooperation on anti-corruption between 14 small island developing States in the Pacific. This would be coupled with community policing involving civil society in enhancing border control management and would complement any operational support to Member States with a long-term vision to restore criminal justice, border control and customs institutions.
- 23.82 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to strengthened rule of law and protection of those who are vulnerable in small island developing States in the Pacific, which is reflected under result 2 of subprogramme 8, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 16)) (see table 23.13).

Table 23.13
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Partnerships established for anti-corruption and countering migrant smuggling in the Pacific | Common country analysis and cooperation frameworks of Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa reflect UNODC mandates under Sustainable Development Goals 3, 16 and 17 | Improved data collection systems on human trafficking in six small island developing States in the Pacific Enhanced South-South cooperation between 14 small island developing States in the Pacific | Improved legal and policy frameworks to address corruption and organized crime for small island developing States in the Pacific Small island developing States in the Pacific actively and effectively participate in the review mechanisms of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption | Small island developing States in the Pacific have an increased evidence base on the threat of transnational organized crime and are better prepared to combat transnational organized crime (including crimes facilitated by the misuse of ICT) 14 small island developing States in the Pacific promote and strengthen the prevention of and fight against corruption, in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and support implementation of the Pacific road map to address corruption in the region (the Teieniwa Vision) |

- 23.83 The expected response in 2024 would also contribute to results under all implementing subprogrammes, including the following: increased international cooperation and strengthening the institutional and legislative capacity of Member States to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute transnational organized crime and new and emerging crimes; reduced illicit supply of drugs through joint and coordinated work by law enforcement authorities to strengthen maritime, air and land

border control, and to track and dismantle networks engaging in drug production, trafficking and distribution; and increased equal access to justice for the vulnerable segments of the population and increased public trust in the justice system, including through nationwide legal aid services that are accessible to all and are tailored to the rights and needs of the population, as reflected under the expected results of subprogrammes 1, 2 and 5, respectively, of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 16)). The response would also contribute to enhanced analytical capacity through increased knowledge of the emerging threats and challenges in relation to human trafficking, and good practices based on evidence and supported through South-South cooperation. In addition, the response would contribute to increased policymaking capacities in the area of human trafficking for improved criminal justice systems, border management and anti-corruption measures.

B. Deliverables

23.84 Table 23.14 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.14

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 20 | 22 | 25 | 25 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.15

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Other staff costs | 335.2 | 730.6 | – | – | 730.6 |
| Consultants | 156.9 | 68.6 | – | – | 68.6 |
| Travel of staff | 81.5 | 62.6 | (0.4) | (0.6) | 62.2 |
| Contractual services | 139.4 | 97.2 | 31.8 | 32.7 | 129.0 |
| General operating expenses | 38.5 | 4.1 | – | – | 4.1 |
| Supplies and materials | 16.2 | – | – | – | – |
| Furniture and equipment | 74.7 | – | – | – | – |
| Construction and maintenance | 8.6 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 116.1 | 170.2 | – | – | 170.2 |
| Total | 967.2 | 1 133.3 | 31.4 | 2.8 | 1 164.7 |

23.85 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$1,164,700 and reflect an increase of \$31,400 or 2.8 per cent compared with the appropriation for 2023. The increase under contractual services (\$31,800) would provide for additional capacity-building support required in the delivery of technical assistance as a result of the anticipated increase in the number of Member States' requests.

5. Human rights

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.86 The activities under human rights are implemented by OHCHR. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of OHCHR: subprogramme 1, Human rights mainstreaming, right to development, and research and analysis; and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities.
- 23.87 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.88 In line with the demand-driven nature of the regular programme of technical cooperation, subprogramme 1 raises awareness of opportunities for developing countries to gain access to technical assistance from regular programme resources through engagement in annual regional sustainable development forums and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The subprogramme works with the rest of the United Nations development system in partnering with Governments at the country level to design United Nations programmes that are aligned with and support national development priorities. In that context, Member States' demand for technical assistance and advice has grown significantly.

Response provided to Member States' requests for support in 2022

United Nations system equipped to implement the pledge to leave no one behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda

(programme performance in 2022 of subprogramme 1 (a) ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)))

Indigenous and minority leaders empowered through the indigenous and minorities fellowship programmes

(result 1 of subprogramme 1 (c) ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 24\)](#)))

- 23.89 In 2022, the implementing subprogrammes scaled up work to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda by further investing in enhanced support to assist Member States and the United Nations development system to deliver on strong human rights outcomes. These included United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, voluntary national reviews and capacity-building to United Nations entities, Member States, civil society actors, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders.
- 23.90 The subprogrammes provided operational advice and guidance on analytical and programmatic contents for the preparation of common country analyses and/or United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes, providing support to Albania, Angola, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.
- 23.91 The subprogrammes supported human rights mainstreaming work by United Nations staff, Governments and other stakeholders, through: (a) contributions to the global workshop on mainstreaming the right to development in voluntary national reviews; (b) outreach events to launch

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

and raise awareness of the human rights and voluntary national review guidance note; and (c) the development of tools and guidance for Member States and United Nations country teams.

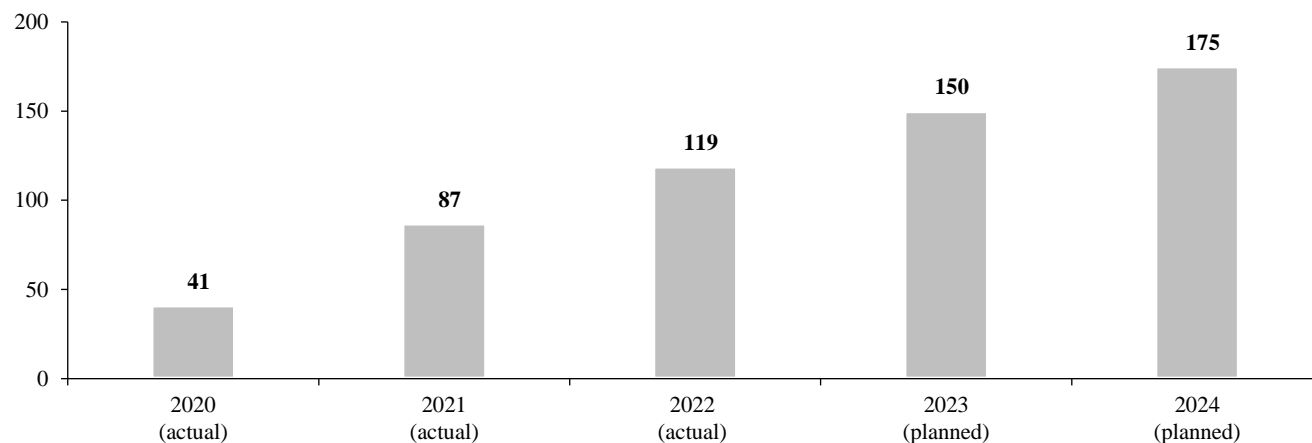
- 23.92 On advancing the principle to leave no one behind, the work of the subprogrammes resulted in the enhanced capacities of States to conduct assessments and implement policies to counter marginalization, while at the same time ensuring that the United Nations response to discrimination and economic inequalities was grounded in the principles of equality and non-discrimination.
- 23.93 The above-mentioned work contributed to United Nations system equipped to implement the pledge to leave no one behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda, which is reflected the programme performance for 2022 of subprogramme 1 (a), and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 24)) (see table 23.16).

**Table 23.16
Performance measure**

| <i>2020 (actual)</i> | <i>2021 (actual)</i> | <i>2022 (actual)</i> |
|---|--|--|
| Member States were supported on leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first through the provision of operational guidance developed with the inter-agency Task Team under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group | The Secretary-General’s COVID-19 policy brief on human rights and economic response to and recovery from the pandemic was made available to support Member States and United Nations country teams to design measures to tackle inequalities | Two checklists and an online tool on integrating human rights, leaving no one behind and gender equality and women’s empowerment strengthened United Nations country team capacities to support Member States in analysis and programming to prioritize the most vulnerable and tackle discrimination and inequalities |
| Member States had access to an operational checklist on human rights and the socioeconomic response to the COVID-19 pandemic | | |

- 23.94 Regarding requests for capacity-building initiatives, for example, OHCHR organized a two-day workshop on promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to government officials, civil society and business in Lesotho. In Egypt, subprogramme 3 conducted a workshop for parliamentarians on United Nations international human rights norms and standards and the international human right system, while subprogramme 1 contributed to a refresher course on human rights for staff of resident coordinator offices in the Europe and Central Asia region.
- 23.95 In 2022, the subprogrammes also worked to continue supporting countries to strengthen their national human rights institutions and civil society through two distinct but comprehensive fellowship programmes: one for staff members of national human rights institutions worldwide; and the other for indigenous representatives of indigenous people and ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities.
- 23.96 The above-mentioned work contributed to indigenous and minority leaders being empowered through the indigenous and minorities fellowship programmes, as reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 1 (c), and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 24)) (see figure 23.VII).

Figure 23.VII
Performance measure: number of senior indigenous and minority fellowships (cumulative)



Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Enhanced capacity of Member States to reduce inequalities

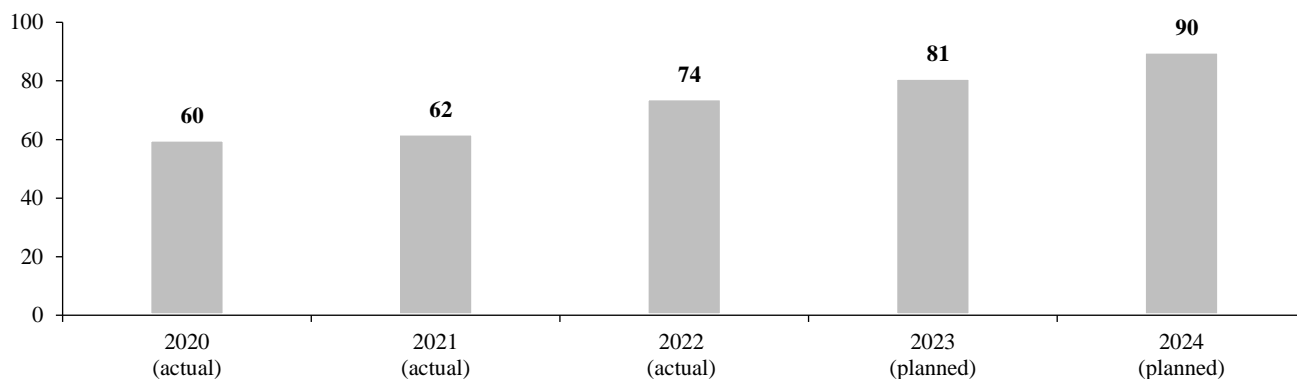
(result 2 of subprogramme 3 (A/78/6 (Sect. 24)))

- 23.97 The subprogrammes will aim at expanding the work carried out by Sustainable Development Goals regional advisors to other regions. In 2022, they played an instrumental role in advising on United Nations common country analyses and programming in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Southern Africa, building a close collaboration with the regional office of the Development Coordination Office, actively supporting the regional mechanisms established under the United Nations development reform, delivering training and reviewing the process of common country analyses and/or United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks undertaken in support of the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights' strategic interventions on sustainable development. Through the deployment of additional specialized capacity to Asia-Pacific and Eastern Africa and the onboarding of human rights data experts in 2024, the subprogrammes will work with Member States: (a) to provide technical advisory services on mainstreaming human rights into the 2030 Agenda, advancing the implementation of the principle of leaving no one behind and the integration of human rights in voluntary national reviews; (b) to consolidate partnerships at the regional level with regional economic commissions and other United Nations development entities for policy and programmatic support to States in the region; and (c) to provide policy advice and capacity-building on mainstreaming human rights in sustainable development plans and programmes, including with regard to data disaggregation and aimed at supporting national statistical systems.
- 23.98 In response to an increase in requests for assistance from Member States, the subprogrammes would provide additional policy expert advice and technical assistance to operationalize the pledge to leave no one behind and design policies that prioritize marginalized and disadvantaged sections of the population, in accordance to the 2030 Agenda accelerators adopted by the General Assembly in 2019 and the resolution adopted by the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of United Nations system operational activities.
- 23.99 To meet growing demands for building more inclusive social protection systems and reduce inequalities, the subprogrammes would continue to work with Member States to enhance their capacity to reduce inequalities and integrate economic, social and cultural rights into their national policies, legislation and mechanisms. The subprogrammes would do so through the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation programmes to Member States and other stakeholders.

23.100 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to enhanced capacity of Member States to reduce inequalities, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/78/6 (Sect. 24)) (see figure 23.VIII).

Figure 23.VIII

Performance measure: number of Member States that took action to enhance legislation and policies that integrate economic, social and cultural rights (cumulative)



B. Deliverables

23.101 Table 23.17 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.17

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 242 | 248 | 245 | 272 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.18

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Other staff costs | 1 063.7 | 1 196.2 | 75.6 | 6.3 | 1 271.8 |
| Consultants | 235.0 | 172.8 | – | – | 172.8 |
| Travel of representatives | 14.7 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 311.8 | 93.7 | – | – | 93.7 |
| Contractual services | 86.7 | 43.9 | – | – | 43.9 |

Part V Regional cooperation for development

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| General operating expenses | 142.8 | 128.0 | – | – | 128.0 |
| Furniture and equipment | 0.8 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 487.0 | 1 098.9 | – | – | 1 098.9 |
| Total | 2 342.4 | 2 733.5 | 75.6 | 2.8 | 2 809.1 |

23.102 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$2,809,100 and reflect an increase of \$75,600 or 2.8 per cent compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase under other staff costs (\$75,600) would provide additional support for the implementation of technical cooperation programmes at OHCHR field presences.

6. Humanitarian assistance

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.103 The activities under humanitarian assistance are implemented by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of the Office: subprogramme 1, Policy and analysis; subprogramme 2, Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response; subprogramme 3, Emergency support services; and subprogramme 4, Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy.

23.104 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.105 The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs organizes training (including online), conferences and partnership events to raise awareness on available support services to Member States. The conferences would provide platforms for Member States and other partners to share experiences, information about new initiatives and good practice, such as through the Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will continue to conduct outreach and awareness-raising on opportunities for collaboration and partnership, mostly with developing countries, and to increase the capacities of Member States on how to access international humanitarian assistance and international disaster response services, such as of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team and International Search and Rescue Advisory Group. The Office will also reach out to regional organizations that support Member States to partner and raise awareness on its capacity-building activities. Some of the organizations include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Response provided to Member States' requests for support in 2022

Crisis-affected people received emergency humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophe

(result 2 of subprogramme 3 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 27\)](#)))

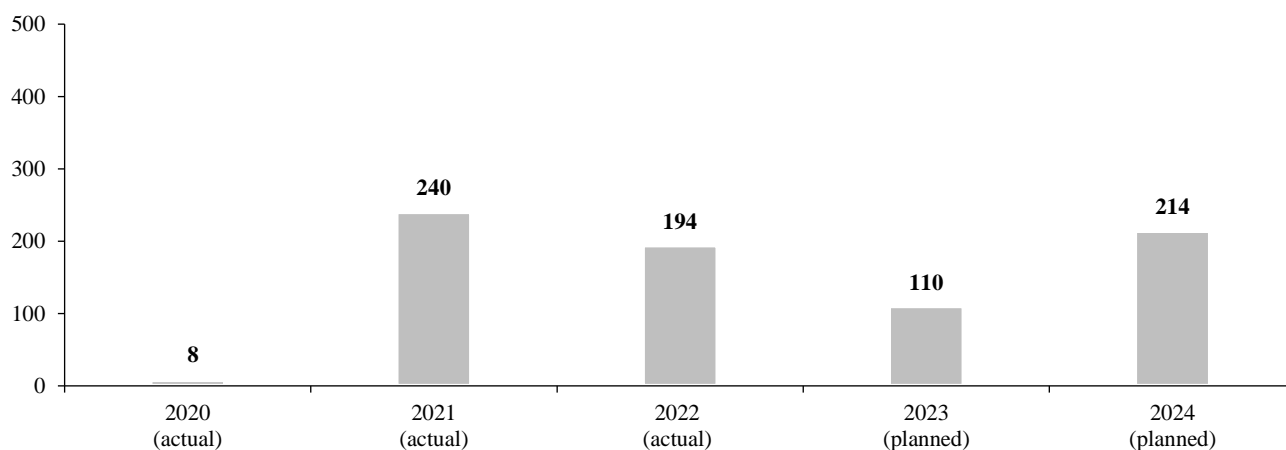
23.106 In 2022, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs responded to sudden onset and complex emergencies in 11 countries (Afghanistan, the Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Pakistan,

Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Somalia, Tonga and Ukraine). In Afghanistan, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team deployed to support the country in response to the earthquake that struck the eastern border region of Afghanistan. In Madagascar, following a request from the resident coordinator and Government after the tropical cyclone Batsirai, the Team deployed to support the Government and humanitarian leadership to coordinate disaster response and conduct an evidence-based needs assessment and analysis. In Peru, following an oil spill, and on the basis of a request for technical assistance from the Government, an environmental emergency response team, including environmental experts and United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team members, was dispatched to advise national authorities on incident management and coordination, rapid socioenvironmental assessments, the review of any existing contingency plans and strengthening emergency preparedness.

- 23.107 The above-mentioned work contributed to the result of crisis-affected people receiving emergency humanitarian assistance in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophe, reflected under result 2 of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 27)) (see figure 23.IX).

Figure 23.IX

Performance measure: number of emergency responders trained in United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team and United Nations humanitarian civil-military coordination, to deploy and respond to sudden-onset emergencies (annual)^a



^a The performance measure has been updated to reflect annual figures rather than cumulative.

Expected response to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Strengthened disaster risk analysis for humanitarian response (result 2 of subprogramme 4 (A/78/6 (Sect. 27)))

- 23.108 In 2024, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs anticipates increased demand by Members States to strengthen the standardization of emergency response approaches and humanitarian response coordination capacities, in particular in developing countries that are at a high risk of natural disaster impacts and have low coordination response capacities. To address those requests, the Office is planning to hold additional simulation programme training for new Information Communication Technology Officers. The goal, by the end of 2024, is to have 10 Officers trained in emergency response to further enhance their skills for surge capacity, which is a vital part of the Office's work.
- 23.109 The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will continue to strengthen rapid response capacities through standardized and improved response methodologies, with a planned target of 214 United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team members trained in the application of

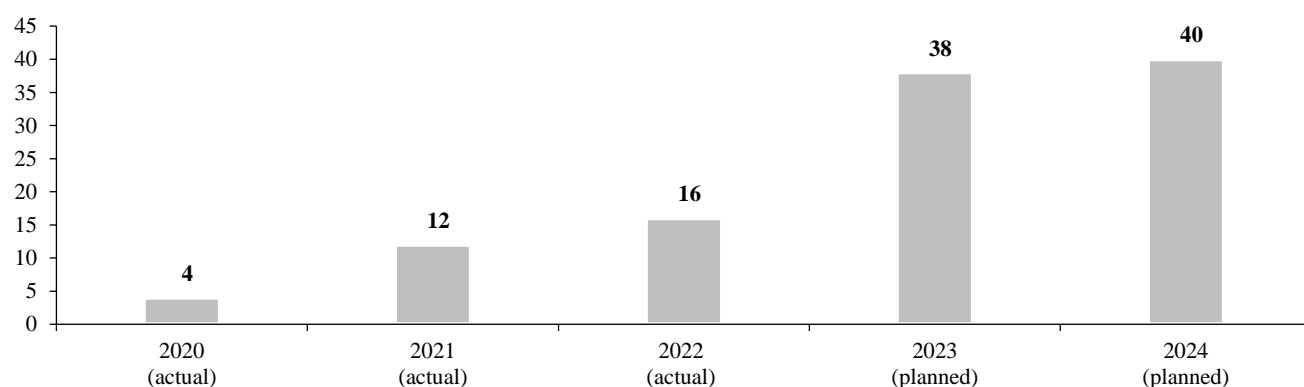
local and regional emergency preparedness and response approaches. The Office’s “connecting business” initiative will prioritize scaling up to establish relationships with private sector networks that respond to crises in at least 20 of the most vulnerable countries, mostly from Asia Pacific region.

23.110 As part of strengthening early recovery efforts and working with development partners, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will work with Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators to strengthen coordination efforts between humanitarian and development actors to deliver people-centred solutions to reduce future humanitarian needs through recovery and resilience strengthening capacity-building support.

23.111 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to strengthened disaster risk analysis for humanitarian response, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 4, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 27)) (see figure 23.X).

Figure 23.X

Performance measure: number of countries with strengthened risk analysis capacities for humanitarian response (cumulative)



B. Deliverables

23.112 Table 23.19 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.19

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 28 | 27 | 28 | 28 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.20

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Other staff costs | 393.9 | 463.3 | 82.5 | 17.8 | 545.8 |
| Consultants | 126.4 | 75.5 | – | – | 75.5 |
| Travel of staff | 59.4 | 81.7 | 10.0 | 12.2 | 91.7 |
| Contractual services | – | 59.3 | (7.5) | (12.6) | 51.8 |
| General operating expenses | 55.6 | 4.2 | 11.6 | 276.2 | 15.8 |
| Supplies and materials | 1.4 | – | – | – | – |
| Furniture and equipment | 17.3 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 53.3 | 95.0 | (75.0) | (78.9) | 20.0 |
| Total | 707.3 | 779.0 | 21.6 | 2.8 | 800.6 |

- 23.113 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$800,600 and reflect a net increase of \$21,600, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The increase under other staff costs (\$82,500), travel of staff (\$10,000) and general operating expenses (\$11,600) are offset in part by decreases under contractual services and grants and contributions and would provide additional simulation programme training for new Information Communication Technology Officers. The goal by end of 2024 is to have 10 Officers trained in emergency response to further enhance their skills for surge capacity.

II. Regional and subregional advisory services

7. Economic and social development in Africa

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.114 The activities under economic and social development in Africa are implemented by ECA and are used to support African countries in their capacity-development efforts and technical advisory services. The programmatic activities are implemented under all subprogrammes of ECA.
- 23.115 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 18\)](#)).

Expected additional requests for support from member States for 2024

- 23.116 In response to an anticipated increase in the volume of requests for assistance from member States, ECA would provide additional support in three main strategic areas: (a) macroeconomic policy and sustainable financing; (b) implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, sustainable industrialization and economic diversification; and (c) inclusive and resilient growth through climate action, energy transition, the green and blue economy, data and digital transformation. ECA has supported member States with related advisory services and technical assistance since 2021, with increasing emphasis on debt management, the

operationalization of the above-mentioned Agreement, harnessing the blue economy and digital transformation in Africa. The opportunity has arisen for ECA to replicate and upscale its pioneering instruments and tools (manuals, policy handbooks and frameworks, etc.) in several African countries and regional economic communities, as the main drivers of post-crisis recovery and sustainable growth on the continent.

Review of high-level positions at headquarters duty stations (ECA)

- 23.117 The main function of interregional advisers is to provide technical expertise, facilitate the transfer of knowledge from global deliberations and the latest analytical work to Governments and institutions, and contribute to the formulation, assessment and/or evaluation of national and subregional policies, strategies, programmes and projects of member States and regional economic communities, at their request. The specific roles, functions and areas of expertise are reflected in the job descriptions and terms of reference, and are classified at the appropriate level. Any new appointments and extensions of appointments of interregional advisers are subject to the review and approval of the head of the entity and the onward processing by the human resources and budget sections. The specific focus of each position evolves over time in line with the Commission's strategic intervention tracks, member States' shifting priorities, regional trends, etc.

Response provided to member States' requests for support in 2022

Member States develop money markets for economic growth and financial stability (section on programme performance in 2022 under subprogramme 3 (A/78/6 (Sect. 18)))

- 23.118 In 2022, ECA provided a response focused on building liquid and inclusive money and interbank markets in Uganda and Zambia. Those countries have segmented money and interbank markets, where liquidity is unevenly held by banks of different sizes and credit profiles, owing to legal, regulatory, risk management and technical skill deficiencies. Such conditions hinder the effectiveness of the transmission of central banks' monetary policies and impose great risk at the time of financial turbulence or crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to the spill-over effects of tighter financial conditions in the United States of America and Euro area, as well as other external shocks, the emerging market local stress index hit a record high since the 2008 global financial crisis, making financing for sustainable development in Africa even more difficult. Therefore, it is a top priority for central banks to develop robust money and interbank markets.
- 23.119 In response, ECA provided technical assistance to Uganda and Zambia at their central banks' requests, to work on an umbrella guarantee facility to address the segmentation issue in their money and interbank markets. In Uganda, ECA organized training workshops to central bank officials as well as commercial bank professionals on the documentation, operational process, collateral management and accounting methods for repo and swap transactions. A "fireside chat" was organized alongside the trainings to sensitize the market about the ambitions of the central bank and to share thoughts that would help further develop the markets. In Zambia, ECA carried out a feasibility study on a facility from four dimensions, including legal and regulatory review, system infrastructure, market demand and relevance, and knowledge and capacity of banking professionals. The findings of the study were shared with all stakeholders in Zambia, including the central bank, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the commercial banks.
- 23.120 The above-mentioned work contributed to Member States developing money markets for economic growth and financial stability, which is a result reflected in the section on programme performance in 2022 under subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 18)) (see table 23.21).

Table 23.21
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) |
|--|---|---|
| Cooperation agreement concluded to support African Governments in the debt relief and debt restructuring initiative within the context of COVID-19 | Uganda and Zambia have included the development of money and interbank markets as strategic issues in their road maps | Uganda has risen two places and Zambia has maintained its ranking in Absa Africa Financial Markets Index 2022 |

Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Improved capacity in development planning for sustainable development and structural transformation in Africa

(result 1 of subprogramme 1 (A/78/6 (Sect. 18)))

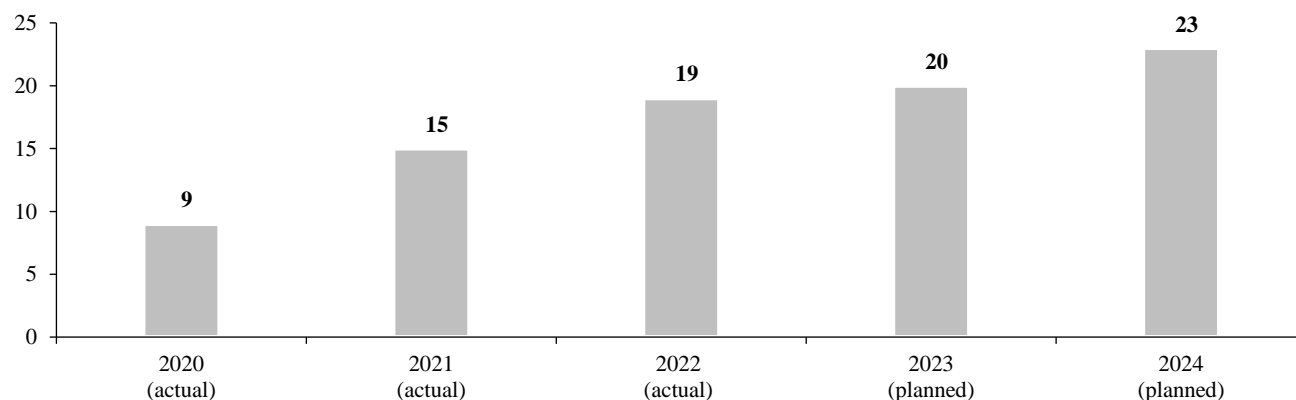
- 23.121 Subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy and governance, aims to achieve structural transformation and inclusive growth in Africa by supporting Governments in strengthened and effective development planning, macroeconomic policy analysis and enhanced public sector finance management and governance. Among others, the subprogramme supports member States in tracking their progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and customizing policy-relevant tools, such as the ECA integrated planning and reporting toolkit, to assist countries in the design, implementation, and monitoring of their national development plans. ECA developed the toolkit in response to the need expressed by experts at the 2016 session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for countries to adopt specific tools that successfully integrated the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into their national development plans and the related recommendation that the African Union Commission and ECA should assist member States in designing a road map for the implementation of the two agendas at the national level and to put in place a harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework for the two agendas.
- 23.122 By supporting countries in migrating their national development plans to the integrated planning and reporting toolkit digital platform, the subprogramme has facilitated and accelerated the digitalization of national planning frameworks in Africa. Digitalization has also made it easier for countries to align their planning frameworks with their international commitments with greater precision and created increased advocacy for Agenda 2063. Since its inception, the programme has continued to receive requests from member States for support in these processes.
- 23.123 The subprogramme also provides tailor-made support to accelerate the graduation of African countries from the list of least developed countries. The need for improved monitoring and implementation of progress towards achieving the global and continental agendas is particularly urgent in those countries, with 33 out of 46 least developed countries being African countries. The least developed countries grapple with several challenges in formulating and implementing their development plans, including lack of good governance, transparency and accountability and ineffectiveness of the public sector, coupled with the weak capacity of institutions, limited human resources and lack of skills, inadequate domestic resource mobilization, and the proliferation of goals and targets among others.
- 23.124 The anticipated support will enhance the capacity of member States that are least developed countries to implement the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the decade 2022-2031, through their national development plans, as well as report on progress. This will involve customizing the integrated planning and reporting toolkit to incorporate the goals, targets and indicators of the Programme of Action, and mapping these onto the Sustainable Development Goals. This process of defining the indicators of the Programme of Action will also inform the setting of global indicators for the Programme. In addition to the digitalization of plans and facilitating alignment with the Goals, Agenda 2063 and the Programme of Action, this support would also focus

on strengthening the results framework of national development plans to facilitate implementation monitoring, and on aligning financing frameworks with international commitments, to ensure appropriate funding allocations.

- 23.125 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to the improved capacity in development planning for sustainable development and structural transformation in Africa, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 1, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 18)) (see figure 23.XI).

Figure 23.XI

Performance measure: number of countries adopting development planning tools (cumulative)



Harnessing the potential of the blue economy, including tourism, within the African Continental Free Trade Area

(result 1 of component 4 of subprogramme 7 (A/78/6 (Sect. 18)))

- 23.126 Subprogramme 7, component 4, supports the East Africa subregion including, 14 East African countries and regional economic communities, in regional trade integration, tourism and the blue economy. Delivering onto its blue economy mandate, the Subregional Office for East Africa provides technical assistance to countries, with the view of strengthening capacity of member States of the region to realize the potential of the blue economy resources at hand, and to formulate adequate policies and strategies for its sustainable exploitation. Such assistance is extended to countries at their request. Since 2020, the subprogramme has leveraged the blue economy valuation toolkit to impart to policymakers, academics and private sector representatives the tools and skills required to conduct regular quantitative assessments of the contribution of comprehensive blue economy resources to the economic, social and ecological well-being of a country or a region. Equipped with the toolkit, Governments and agencies will be able to develop evidence-based, costed strategies for the blue economy sector and its subsectors. They will be able to evaluate a return on investment by measuring the benefits generated. It will also allow them to use the data generated by the toolkit to support fundraising requests for blue economy projects vis-à-vis donors. The subprogramme furthermore supports regional efforts towards the development of blue economy-related trade and services and maritime security. The subprogramme is working closely with the Indian Ocean Commission in supporting the regional maritime architecture in the Western Indian Ocean, given the critical role that safe sea transportation plays in ensuring enhanced trade of goods and services under the African Continental Free Trade Area. It has furthermore conducted a comparative analysis on inland waterway transportation in the East Africa region to explore how to harmonize the multimodal transportation policies and strategies across the region for the efficiency of goods transportation in general.

- 23.127 The subprogramme receives regular requests for support from member States and regional economic communities on: (a) blue economy valuation assessment using the ECA blue economy valuation

toolkit; (b) blue economy satellite accounts; and (c) the formulation and implementation of national and/or regional blue economy strategies.

- 23.128 In response to these anticipated requests in 2024, the subprogramme would implement demand-driven interventions in the above areas and, in doing so, plans to work closely with regional agencies, and resident coordinator offices to create awareness about the need for regular and disaggregated data collection about all the water bodies of countries, the importance of valuation assessments of blue economy resources in order to establish its positive or negative correlation with other subsectors of activities, and the value of evidence-based policy planning. The subprogramme also seeks to educate countries on the direct and indirect costs of maritime insecurity in the region. More niche training support on trade facilitation will be provided to coastal communities engaged in cross-border trade of perishables. The subprogramme will also contribute to initiatives aiming at improving the business environment for the trade of perishable blue economy products by exploring the potential for inland waterway transportation in the central and northern corridor of East Africa. The subprogramme would conduct capacity-building workshops and training, and generate a number of knowledge products to support and effectively communicate the outcomes of these projects.
- 23.129 These interventions would lead to an increase in the knowledge base and capacity of member States of the subregion to formulate and implement adequate blue economy policies and strategies to elevate the contribution of the sector to sustainable socioeconomic and ecological development of Africa. The objective is in line with the commitment of the Secretary-General at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, where the need was emphasized to support developing countries in improving their capacity for scientific observation, data collection and access to finance and technology.
- 23.130 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to harnessing the potential of the blue economy, including tourism, within the African Continental Free Trade Area, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 7, component 4, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 18)) (see table 23.22).

Table 23.22
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Nine policy frameworks and tools developed by member States on the blue economy | Eleven policy frameworks and tools developed by member States on the blue economy | One country (United Republic of Tanzania) adapted the blue economy valuation toolkit to the national context | An additional three member States implement subregional initiatives in the area of the blue economy | One additional member State implements a policy framework in the area of the blue economy |
| One country (Seychelles) finalized draft tourism satellite accounts (awaiting government approval) | Two member States (Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania (Zanzibar)) finalized tourism satellite accounts | | | |

B. Deliverables

- 23.131 Table 23.23 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.23

Economic Commission for Africa: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| <i>Category and subcategory</i> | <i>2022 planned</i> | <i>2022 actual</i> | <i>2023 planned</i> | <i>2024 planned</i> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 406 | 406 | 426 | 440 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.24

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | <i>2022 expenditure</i> | <i>2023 appropriation</i> | <i>Changes</i> | | <i>2024 estimate (before recosting)</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | |
| Other staff costs | 2 537.1 | 3 587.2 | – | – | 3 587.2 |
| Consultants | 1 363.8 | 1 627.1 | – | – | 1 627.1 |
| Experts | 577.9 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 560.9 | 416.5 | – | – | 416.5 |
| Contractual services | 178.1 | 434.9 | – | – | 434.9 |
| General operating expenses | 330.3 | – | – | – | – |
| Supplies and materials | 1.9 | – | – | – | – |
| Furniture and equipment | 49.1 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 2 206.9 | 3 241.0 | 257.5 | 7.9 | 3 498.5 |
| Total | 7 805.9 | 9 306.7 | 257.5 | 2.8 | 9 564.2 |

23.132 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$9,564,200 and reflect an increase of \$257,500, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase under grants and contributions (\$257,500) would provide for activities related to the building of capacity for economic, planning, statistical and social development policies and frameworks, as outlined in paragraph 23.116.

8. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.133 The activities under economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific are implemented by ESCAP. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of ESCAP: subprogramme 1, Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development; subprogramme 2, Trade, investment and innovation; subprogramme 3, Transport; subprogramme 4, Environment and development; subprogramme 5, ICT and disaster risk reduction and management; subprogramme 6, Social development; subprogramme 7, Statistics; subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development (components 1 to 5); and subprogramme 9, Energy.

- 23.134 In providing this assistance, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.135 Emphasizing the demand-driven nature of the programme, ESCAP raises awareness of the opportunities for assistance that the programme offers on a continuous basis and in particular through: (a) official documentation of intergovernmental meetings, conferences, other events and forums and related public information; (b) regular briefing of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission; (c) bilateral meetings of the Executive Secretary with senior officials and permanent representatives of member States; (d) official missions and advisory services of ESCAP senior management and other staff; and (e) official correspondence addressed to seats of Governments related to advisory and other technical assistance offerings available to member States upon request.

Response provided to member States' requests for support in 2022

Advancing data and guidance for evidence-based policy related to population ageing, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(section on programme performance in 2022 under subprogramme 6 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)))

- 23.136 In the period 2021–2022, ESCAP (subprogramme 6, Social development) received four requests for technical support from Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia and the Philippines to develop capacity for the implementation of the Action Plan to Strengthen Regional Cooperation on Social Protection. The beneficiary entities (of the subsequent ESCAP interventions) included ministries responsible for social protection schemes and line ministries engaged in interministerial coordination on social protection in the target countries. In the Philippines, the ESCAP national review of the Action Plan fed into the preparation of the draft national social protection strategy as part of the Philippines national development plan 2023-2028. Stocktaking reviews on the readiness to implement the Action Plan were conducted in Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation; in Maldives, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services; and in Mongolia in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.
- 23.137 In 2022, the ESCAP social protection simulator was expanded to help countries assess the impact of non-contributory cash transfers on economic indicators of consumption, poverty, inequality and the costs of schemes in their respective countries. ESCAP conducted a workshop to enhance the capacity of the Government of the Philippines to use the simulator to inform the design of social protection schemes. Further capacity-development material was produced through primers on the design of child benefits and maternity leave policies and cash transfers, as well as implementation of inclusive and universal social protection systems.
- 23.138 The above-mentioned work contributed to advancing data and guidance for evidence-based policy related to population ageing, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as reflected result 1 of subprogramme 6, and the related performance measure, as reflected in the programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)) (see table 23.25).

Table 23.25
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| ESCAP member States support the mapping of policies on population ageing and the collection of data to monitor population ageing | Five ESCAP member States in special situations (Bhutan, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives and Mongolia) conduct national reviews on data and policies through bottom-up approaches and interministerial meetings to prepare for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the context of the 2030 Agenda | ESCAP member States adopted an outcome document (“Accelerating Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, to Build a Sustainable Society for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific”), which contained recommendations for action at the regional and national levels to address the economic and social impacts of population ageing, especially on older women | Three additional ESCAP member States address population ageing and other population and development concerns in policy frameworks and action plans | 50 per cent of ESCAP member States have provided input to an online ESCAP repository of policies and data on implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 20 per cent of member States use the online ESCAP repository, and implement recommendations therein, when drafting new policies, laws, programmes and guidelines on population ageing |

Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Accelerated implementation of climate action

(result 2 of subprogramme 4 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)))

Local governments localize the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to national climate strategies

(result 3 of subprogramme 4 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)))

- 23.139 In 2024, following the seventy-ninth session of ESCAP, on raising climate ambition in Asia and the Pacific, subprogramme 4, Environment and development will focus on the delivery of technical assistance for the development of “net zero” strategies and road maps, including for the application of instruments for the reduction and control of greenhouse gases and the development of enhanced transparency frameworks. Technical assistance for the development of “net zero” strategies and road maps is planned to be provided to Mongolia and countries in the South-East Asian subregion. Furthermore, capacity-development activities in that area will align with and complement activities expected to be delivered under the fifteenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account, on enhancing investments for equitable and accelerated climate action in the post-COVID-19 recovery, which includes activities in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives and Samoa. Also, in 2024, demand from countries in the Pacific subregion on ocean-based climate solutions is expected to increase, coinciding with the hosting of the seventh Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, which will contribute to the implementation of ESCAP resolution 76/1, entitled “Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”. In addition, requests are expected to increase in support of the follow-up to and review of the Global Food Summit and to build capacities for food systems risk and resilience.

- 23.140 With regard to sustainable urban development, subprogramme 4 is expected to continue to receive requests to support the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of voluntary local reviews, and increasingly for smart city solutions. Additional countries have expressed interest in receiving support from ESCAP for localization and/or smart city efforts, including Cambodia, India, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Philippines. Priorities also include local climate action and strategies, through an international climate initiative project (“UrbanACT”) in which ESCAP is an implementing partner with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), to support the vertical integration of climate strategies in China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The expected regular programme of technical cooperation activities will leverage ongoing and past and other projects to further support localization across the region.
- 23.141 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to accelerated implementation of climate action, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 4, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)) (see figure 23.XII). In addition, the expected response in 2024 would contribute to local governments enhancing their capacities to localize the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to national climate strategies, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 4, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)) (see figure 23.XIII).

Figure 23.XII
Performance measure: number of Asia-Pacific countries that develop local climate and/or air pollution action plans and long-term, low-carbon and low-emissions development and recovery strategies (cumulative)

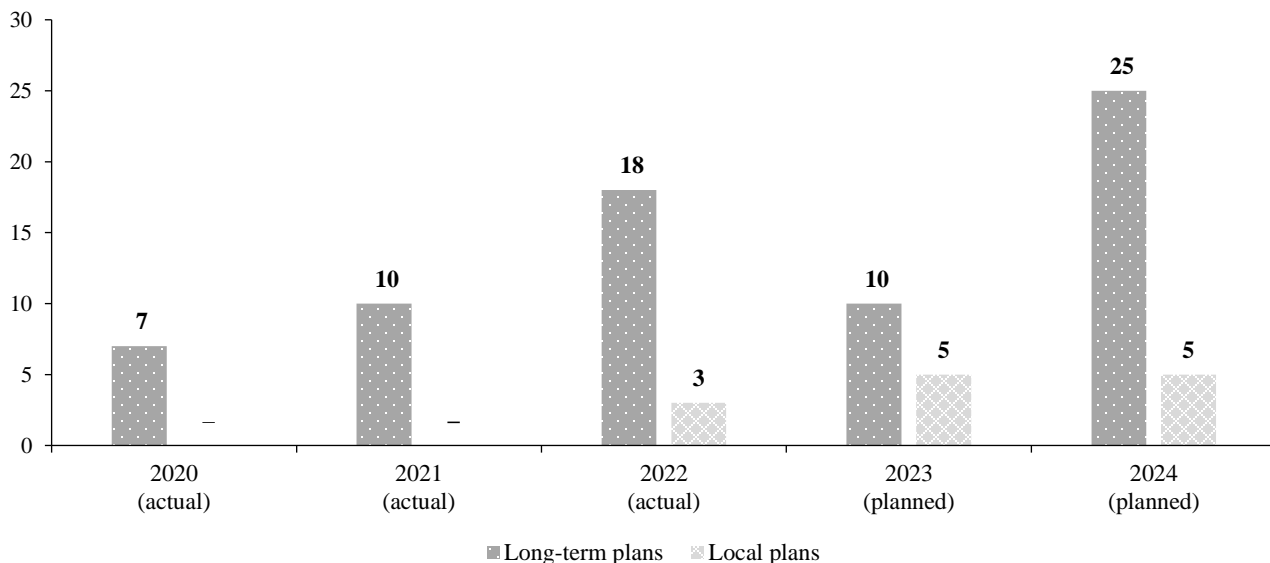
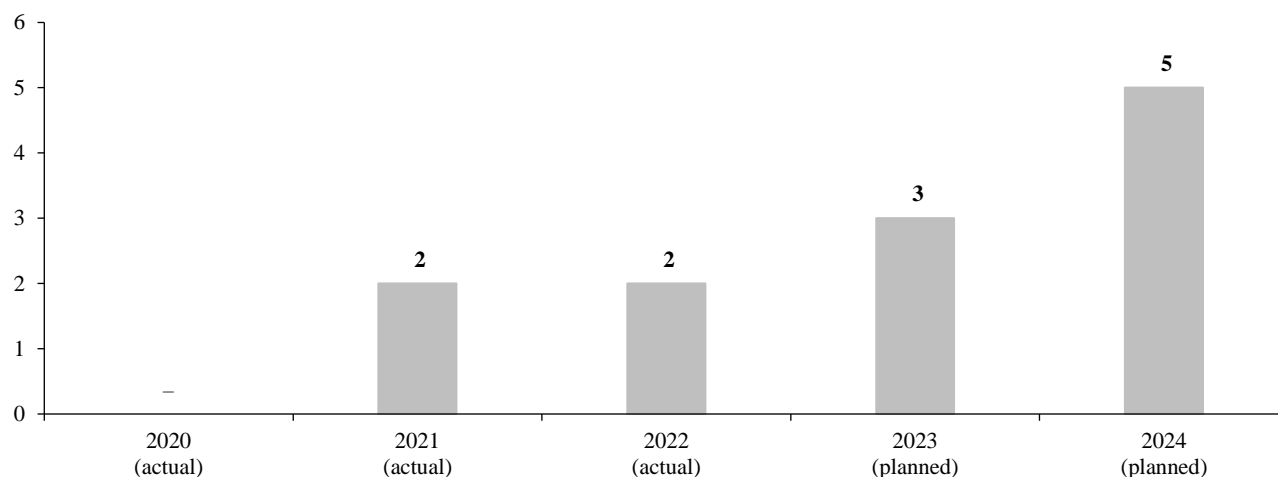


Figure 23. XIII

Performance measure: number of cities that develop voluntary local reviews and/or Sustainable Development Goals localization plans with direct support by ESCAP (annual)



Improved flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia
(result 3 of subprogramme 8, component 4 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)))

Increased integration of disaster risk-related analysis in national and local planning in countries of South and South-West Asia
(result 2 of subprogramme 8, component 4 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)))

23.142 In 2024, component 4 of subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development in South and South-West Asia, will support member States in strengthening transport, energy and ICT connectivity in collaboration with subprogrammes 3, 6 and 9. On the basis of a request from India to develop Sustainable Development Goals-aligned recommendations for improving cross-border connectivity in the subregion, as well as stakeholder consultations carried out in 2023 under the regular programme for technical cooperation, the component anticipates requests for additional technical assistance and capacity-building for strengthening connectivity in the above-mentioned areas, in particular in Eastern South Asia. Follow-up support is also anticipated from a joint high-level event in April 2023 by ESCAP and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation on risk management in the climate-disaster-health nexus. In response to the anticipated requests, the component would provide training to government officials on the basis of modalities for implementation of specific connectivity projects recommended by studies and stakeholder consultations conducted in 2023. Technical assistance and capacity-building activities for stakeholders in South and South-West Asia is also anticipated on the use of relevant tools for enhancing disaster risk reduction.

23.143 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to improved flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia, which is reflected in result 3 of component 4 of subprogramme 8, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)) (see table 23.26). The expected response would also contribute to increased integration of disaster risk-related analysis in national and local planning in countries of South and South-West Asia, which is reflected in result 2 of component 4, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 19\)](#)) (see table 23.27).

Table 23.26
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---------------|---------------|--|---|---|
| – | – | The flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia is hampered due to limited transboundary connectivity in transport, energy, ICT and supply chains in those localities | Two member States express interest in working jointly to improve the transboundary flow of goods and services at border crossing points in Eastern South Asia | Stakeholders of at least one border crossing point in Eastern South Asia reach a shared understanding of the bottlenecks to be mitigated for enhanced transboundary connectivity and the flow of goods and services |

Table 23.27
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---------------|--|---|---|---|
| – | Evidence-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are not yet institutionalized and operationalized in a practical manner | Disaster management authorities in Maldives identified existing gaps in disaster risk management through the use of customized planning tools, database development and data collection | Policymakers from two countries in South Asia use customized planning tools, techniques and guidelines to facilitate the undertaking of disaster risk-related analyses for national and local planning purposes | Enhanced peer learning on improving disaster risk resilience enabled by two countries in South Asia sharing their expertise in undertaking disaster risk-related analyses for planning purposes with other countries in South and South-West Asia |

Evidence-based strategies for increasing sustainable power system connectivity
(result 2 of subprogramme 9 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)))

Increased ambition of national commitments by member States towards modern and clean energy in support of Goal 7
(result 3 of subprogramme 9 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)))

23.144 In 2024, subprogramme 9, Energy, anticipates multiple country requests for support to upscale clean cooking in support of target 7.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 7 in their respective countries. Several of these country requests (Fiji and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic) have already been received in 2023, with more expected that will require support in 2024. In response to those requests, the subprogramme will roll out activities that would encompass capacity-building for the design and deployment of clean cooking technologies with a focus on electric cooking. This work is linked to the delivery of other elements of the work programme, in particular the follow-up to road maps

relating to Goal 7 and related recommendations on expanding access to clean cooking. The subprogramme also expects requests for capacity-building on key aspects of power system connectivity to integrate renewable electricity, including establishing multilateral power trading, for example, in South-East Asia to support efforts by South-East Asian energy utilities and regulators to continue the development of the ASEAN Power Grid. The subprogramme also anticipates requests from stakeholders in South Asia to support efforts to establish power trading arrangements in Bangladesh, Bhutan India and Nepal. This would include requests to give direct capacity-building support in priority areas for power connectivity development and power trade, and to exchange knowledge among Asia-Pacific subregions and relevant stakeholders in other regions of the world, in particular Africa and Europe. Requests for support are also anticipated on topics related to the sustainable development of extractive industries and the impacts of energy transition on critical raw materials.

- 23.145 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to the follow-up on recommendations in the road maps related to Sustainable Development Goal 7 and to the evidence-based strategies for increasing sustainable power system connectivity, which is reflected under result 2 of subprogramme 9, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)) (see table 23.28). The work would also contribute to the increased ambition of national commitments by member States towards modern and clean energy in support of Goal 7, as reflected under the result 3 of subprogramme 9, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 19)) (see table 23.29).

Table 23.28

Performance measure

| <i>2020 (actual)</i> | <i>2021 (actual)</i> | <i>2022 (actual)</i> | <i>2023 (planned)</i> | <i>2024 (planned)</i> |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| ESCAP member States agreed on draft text of a regional road map on power system connectivity through informal consultation | Committee on Energy endorsed the regional road map on power system connectivity at its third session, and the Commission endorsed it at its seventy-seventh session | ESCAP member States provided updates on connectivity activities on a voluntary basis at meetings of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity Time frames for achieving the road map milestones have been met or are under development | ESCAP member States analyse gaps in policies, regulations and standards in each subregion and agree on a set of principles for enabling sustainable power system connectivity | At least one subregion demonstrates progress on establishing multilateral power trading |

Table 23.29

Performance measure

| <i>2020 (actual)</i> | <i>2021 (actual)</i> | <i>2022 (actual)</i> | <i>2023 (planned)</i> | <i>2024 (planned)</i> |
|----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| – | At the Committee on Energy, member States announced commitments to increasing energy | Member States provided updates on the development of sustainable energy policies at meetings | Member States agree on accelerated Sustainable Development | Member States announce more ambitious national commitments to increase the share of |

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

| <i>2020 (actual)</i> | <i>2021 (actual)</i> | <i>2022 (actual)</i> | <i>2023 (planned)</i> | <i>2024 (planned)</i> |
|----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | access, energy efficiency and renewable capacity | of the expert working group on universal access to modern energy services, renewable energy, energy efficiency and cleaner use of fossil fuels | Goal 7 actions in specific areas in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement | energy from renewable sources; and to adopt advanced energy efficiency and enhance access to electricity and clean cooking technologies, research, technology and investments in clean energy |

B. Deliverables

23.146 Table 23.30 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.30
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| <i>Category and subcategory</i> | <i>2022 planned</i> | <i>2022 actual</i> | <i>2023 planned</i> | <i>2024 planned</i> |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 134 | 131.5 | 140 | 150 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.31
Financial resources by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | <i>2022 expenditure</i> | <i>2023 appropriation</i> | <i>Changes</i> | | <i>2024 estimate (before recosting)</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | |
| Other staff costs | 743.3 | 858.2 | – | – | 858.2 |
| Consultants | 1 462.8 | 1 323.9 | – | – | 1 323.9 |
| Experts | 33.6 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 202.7 | 394.0 | 51.9 | 13.2 | 445.9 |
| Contractual services | 380.5 | 581.7 | – | – | 581.7 |
| General operating expenses | 126.6 | 198.2 | – | – | 198.2 |
| Supplies and materials | 1.1 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 445.2 | 396.7 | 51.9 | 13.1 | 448.6 |
| Total | 3 395.8 | 3 752.7 | 103.8 | 2.8 | 3 856.5 |

23.147 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$3,856,500 and reflect an increase of \$103,800, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase under

travel of staff (\$51,900) would be for the delivery of in-person advisory services and technical support on the ground to Governments, with specific advice on sectoral matters relevant to their development strategy or programme and aid in the preparation of specialized components of a country's development strategy. The proposed increase under grants and contributions (\$51,900) would provide support for technical cooperation activities in institutional capacity-building, including through the development of networks of experts and practitioners in the respective sectoral areas to facilitate knowledge exchange and potential collaboration, especially through South-South cooperation.

9. Economic development in Europe

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.148 The activities under economic development in Europe are implemented by the secretariat of ECE. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of ECE: subprogramme 1, Environment; subprogramme 2, Transport; subprogramme 3, Statistics; subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration; subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy; subprogramme 6, Trade; subprogramme 7, Forests and the forest industry; and subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population. Technical cooperation activities are focused on the 17 United Nations programme countries in the ECE region, with a view to strengthening their national capacities to accede to and implement ECE and international legal instruments, norms and standards.
- 23.149 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 20)).

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.150 ECE established a system for consistent outreach to raise awareness on technical cooperation opportunities for the United Nations programme countries in the ECE region through meetings with government officials in the context of intergovernmental meetings, workshops, advisory missions, regular meetings with the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in the region. Some examples include: (a) workshops and sessions for policymakers at national, subregional and regional levels to promote multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations transport-related legal instruments and other available norms, tools and standards; (b) targeted presentations at regular intergovernmental sessions, for instance, presentation to the Inland Transport Committee at its eighty-fifth session on the implementation of the Inland Transport Committee Capacity Development Action Plan; (c) annual high-level seminar on capacity development for heads of national statistical offices in programme countries in the ECE region and regular meetings of the Regional United Nations Coordination Group on Data and Statistics in Europe and Central Asia, which provides opportunities for data and statistics focal points from country teams in the region to share needs and request support; (d) annual meetings of the thematic working groups of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, jointly organized by ECE and ESCAP, where member States discuss common challenges in the area of environment, energy, trade, transport and innovations, and have an opportunity to request technical cooperation support to identify common solutions; (e) meetings of the issues-based coalition on environment and climate change and outreach to resident coordinator offices and country teams on integrating environment and climate change to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework; and (f) regular briefings for the resident coordinators and country teams on the ongoing and planned portfolio of the regular programme of technical cooperation, including regular participation of ECE regional advisers in country team and relevant Cooperation Framework results group meetings.

- 23.151 Strategic- and technical-level discussions with the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams on existing portfolio to identify areas for partnerships and new programmatic opportunities prove to be an important vehicle for awareness-raising and leveraging funding through joint submissions to such funding instruments as the Sustainable Development Goals Fund. ECE works closely with the permanent missions to the United Nations based in Geneva with respect to the processes involved in the nominations of policymakers for capacity-building and field projects and organizing briefings on ECE portfolio in mandated areas. It also coordinates and looks for complementarities with other United Nations organizations for national and subregional interventions.

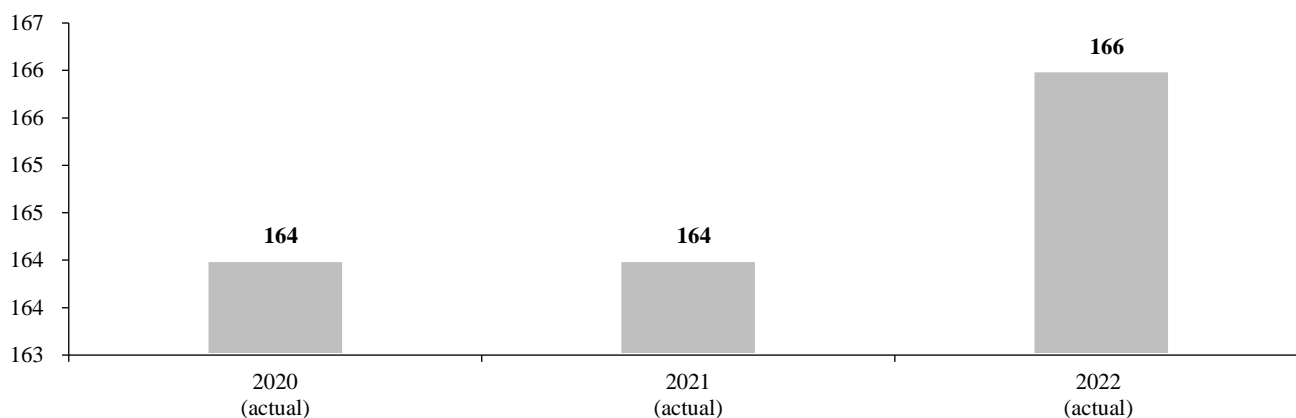
Response provided to member States' requests for support in 2022

Accelerated digitalization of legal instruments in inland transport in response to COVID-19
(programme performance section of subprogramme 2 (A/78/6 (Sect. 20)))

- 23.152 In 2022, ECE focused its technical cooperation on delivering integrated policy- and capacity-building responses to facilitate transboundary cooperation, improve connectivity and support green transformation and digitalization, and on responding to emerging needs due to the war in Ukraine and its consequences for neighbouring countries.
- 23.153 Subprogramme 2: Transport contributes to advancing a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport (road, rail, inland waterway and intermodality) system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility. In 2022, technical cooperation responses achieved an important milestone in the efforts to improve road safety and the modernization of international transportation for the benefits of target countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the basis of a request of the Government, ECE prepared a road map for roadside technical inspection of vehicles. That road map is a continuation of ECE support to Bosnia and Herzegovina that originated with the draft framework road safety strategy and the road map for accession to and implementation for Bosnia and Herzegovina of the 1997 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions for periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles and the reciprocal recognition of such inspections. In 2022, Georgia adopted a national road safety strategy that is based on findings and recommendations of the earlier road safety performance review conducted by ECE. ECE also provided technical support in modernizing international transportation through the use of digital technology. The first electronic TIR (eTIR) transport in line with the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets has taken place between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. This marked a new, digital era of the TIR system and is the result of long-lasting efforts by ECE to modernize international transport.
- 23.154 The above-mentioned work contributed to accelerated inland transport in response to COVID-19, which is a result reflected in the section on programme performance under subprogramme 2, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 20)) (see figure 23.XIV).

Figure 23.XIV

Performance measure: number of accessions by Member States to legal instruments for the digitalization of transport and border-crossing procedures (CMR, eCMR and TIR) (cumulative)



Abbreviations: CMR: Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road; eCMR: Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road concerning the electronic consignment note; TIR, Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets.

Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Improved information for strengthening transboundary water cooperation

(result 1 of subprogramme 1 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Strengthened regulatory support in road safety contributing to fewer worldwide road accident fatalities and injuries

(result 1 of subprogramme 2 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems

(result 2 of subprogramme 2 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Increased number of countries collaborating on developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics

(result 2 of subprogramme 3 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Improved capacity of member States in the development of infrastructure projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the circular economy

(result 2 of subprogramme 4 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Enhanced resilience of energy systems in the Economic Commission for Europe region

(result 3 of subprogramme 5 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Increased facilitation of agricultural trade through the adoption of agricultural quality and electronic business standards in Economic Commission for Europe member States

(result 2 of subprogramme 6 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Increased access to forest product information to support evidence-led policymaking for the sustainable production and consumption of forest products

(result 1 of subprogramme 7 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

Acceleration of the city-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

(result 2 of subprogramme 8 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)))

- 23.155 In 2024, subprogramme 1: Environment, subprogramme 2: Transport, subprogramme 3: Statistics, subprogramme 4: Economic cooperation and integration, subprogramme 5: Sustainable energy, subprogramme 6: Trade, subprogramme 7: Forests and the forest industry, and subprogramme 8:

Housing, land management and population will continue to provide timely responses to the requests from member States and support government officials and policy practitioners from United Nations programme countries to strengthen national capacities to accede to and implement ECE and international legal instruments, norms and standards, address ongoing and emerging transboundary challenges and provide integrated policy responses to changing economic realities, thus supporting the countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECE will continue to deliver its targeted and demand-driven sectoral and cross sectoral capacity-building services, including advisory services, training and field projects, in close collaboration with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in the 17 United Nations programme countries. The interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals will be reflected in capacity-building activities in areas where multiple Goals converge (digitalization, the circular economy, green transformation, sustainable urban solutions, sustainable mobility and connectivity, and others). It will also integrate South-South cooperation and peer learning components to share experience on various capacity-development approaches and policy options that countries employed to build up on available good practices that could be replicated across region.

23.156 In response to the anticipated requests in 2024, the subprogrammes would:

- (a) Address the emerging challenges of United Nations programme countries, focusing on the economic and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing crisis;
- (b) Deliver technical cooperation to support the ratification and implementation of international norms, standards and agreements;
- (c) Address transboundary cross-border challenges, improve connectivity and build economic and environmental resilience, including through the platform provided by the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

23.157 The subprogrammes would deliver capacity-building programmes focusing on:

- (a) Strengthened capacities of member States in Central Asia in the areas of water and health (under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes), and development of national state-of-the-environment reporting in Central Asia;
- (b) Enhancement of South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and g Asia member States for the efficient implementation of United Nations transport legal instruments, with the aim of deploying digitalized transport services and improving national road safety systems;
- (c) Strengthened capacities of national statistical systems in programme countries to modernize their statistical production, including moving to more efficient organizational structures, implementing relevant ECE standards and models and developing the use of new data sources, with a focus on high demand from the Caucasus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine;
- (d) Support for institutional structures for innovation and technology in the programme countries and building an enabling environment for public-private partnerships;
- (e) Strengthened capacities of member States in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the areas of energy efficiency in buildings and industry, renewable energy, attaining “net zero”, safe and environmentally and socially conscious coal mine closure, just transition, and enhancing resilience of energy systems;
- (f) Strengthened capacities of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to implement the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement and the United Nations Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport standards for trade facilitation and electronic business multimodal transport data exchange;
- (g) Support for the United Nations programme countries in sustainably managing healthy forest ecosystems in order to provide important ecosystem goods and services to benefit society, including climate mitigation and adaptation;

- (h) Support for local governments in the development of sustainable urban solutions, development of smart cities profiles and Sustainable Development Goals-related voluntary local reviews;
- (i) Strengthened capacity of member States in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in mainstreaming ageing through the development of national strategic frameworks for mainstreaming ageing, data gap analyses, training in age-sensitive analysis and methods for mainstreaming ageing in sectoral policies.

23.158 The expected responses would contribute to results under all eight subprogrammes, including, for example, improved information for strengthening transboundary water cooperation, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 1, and the related performance measures (see figure 23.XV); strengthened regulatory support in road safety contributing to fewer worldwide road accident fatalities and injuries, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 2, and the related performance measure (see figure 23.XVI); enhanced regulatory framework for sustainable inland transport systems, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 2, and the related performance measure (see figure 23.XVII); increased number of countries collaborating on developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measures (see figure 23.XVIII); improved capacity of member States in the development of infrastructure projects in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the circular economy, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 4, and the related performance measure (see figure 23.XIX); enhanced resilience of energy systems in the ECE region, which is reflected in result 3 in subprogramme 5, and the related performance measure (see figure 23.XX); increased facilitation of agricultural trade through the adoption of agricultural quality and electronic business standards in Economic Commission for Europe member States, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 6, and the related performance measure (see figure 23.XXI); increased access to forest product information to support evidence-led policymaking for the sustainable production and consumption of forest products, which is reflected in result 1 of subprogramme 7, and the related performance measure (see figure 23.XXII); and acceleration of the city-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 8, and the related performance measure (see table 23.32), of the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 20\)](#)).

Figure 23.XV
Performance measure: number of countries for which data on transboundary river and lake component of indicator 6.5.2 are submitted to the Statistical Commission (cumulative)

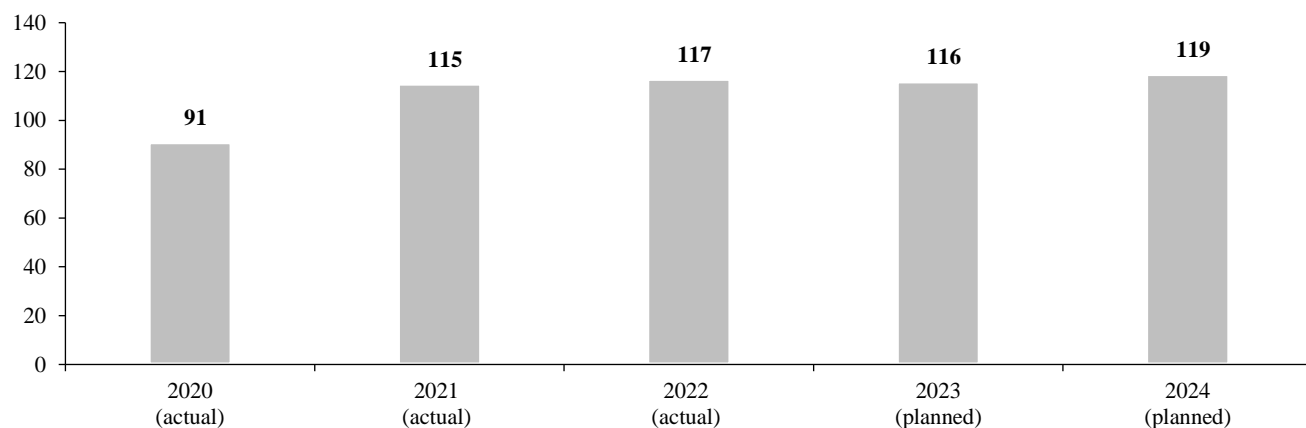


Figure 23.XVI
Performance measure: number of contracting parties to core United Nations road safety conventions (cumulative)

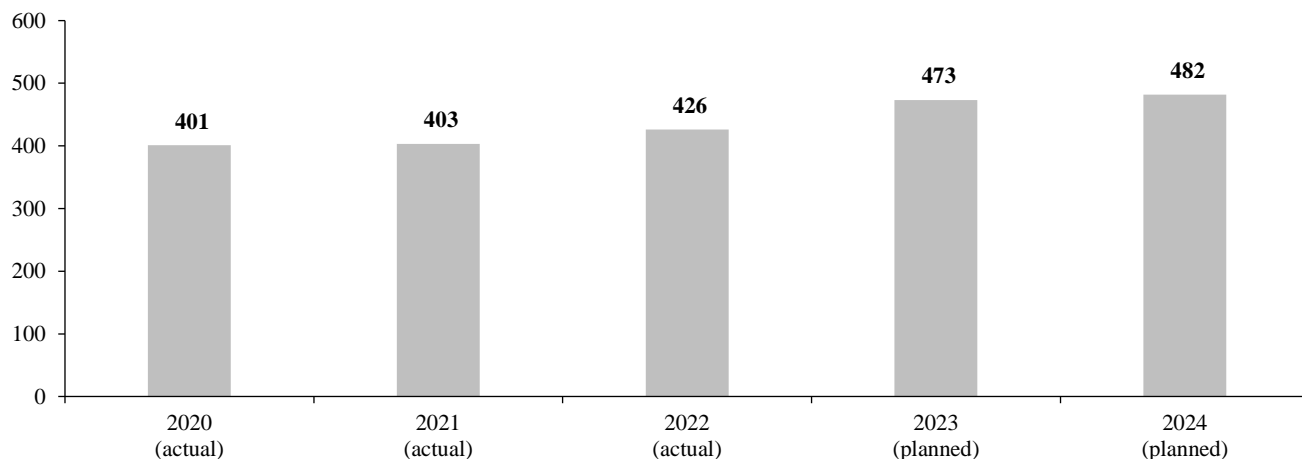


Figure 23.XVII
Performance measure: number of contracting parties to United Nations legal instruments on transport administered by ECE (cumulative)

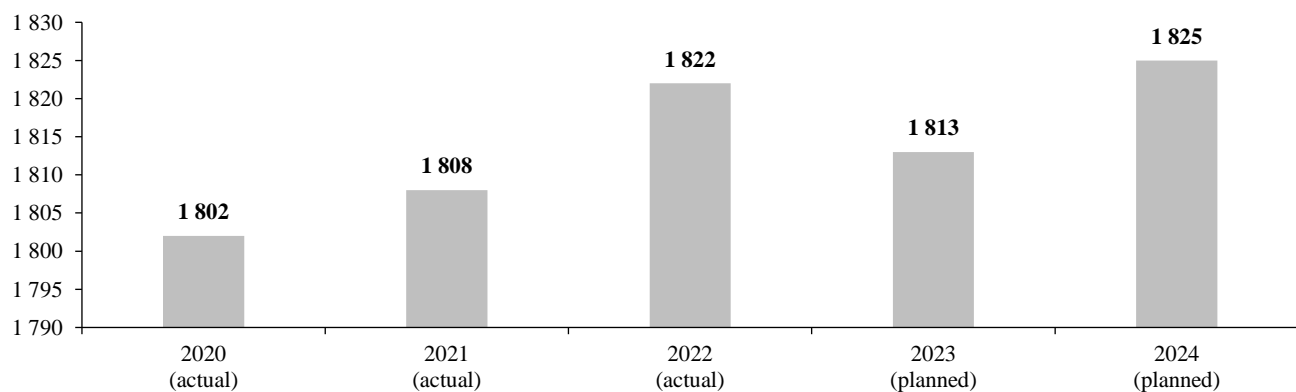


Figure 23.XVIII
Performance measure: number of member States actively collaborating in developing and using machine learning techniques for the production of official statistics (cumulative)

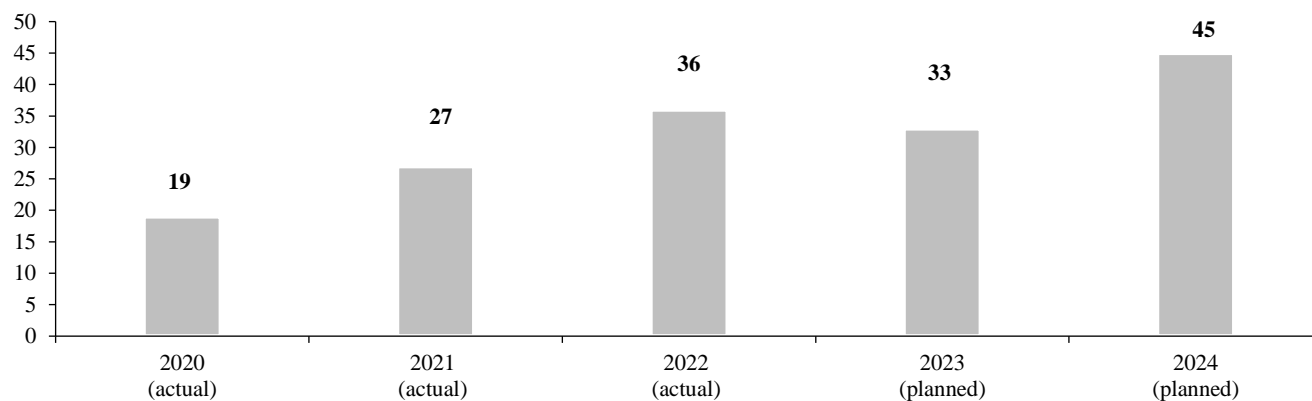


Figure 23.XIX
Performance measure: number of policymakers from member States that have used the ECE standards and guidelines on public-private partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals to identify and prepare infrastructure projects aligned with the Goals and the circular economy and the sustainable use of natural resources (cumulative)

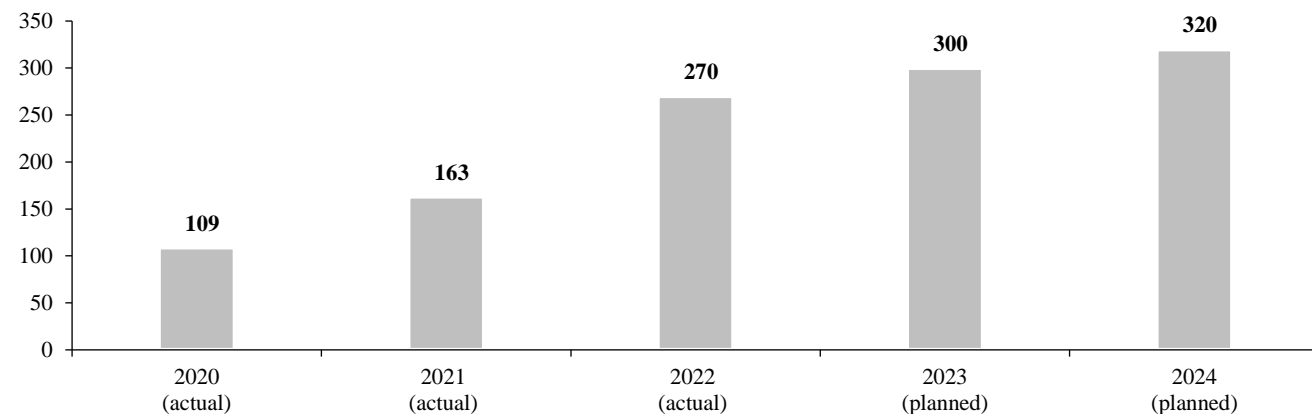


Figure 23.XX
Performance measure: number of member States using ECE mechanisms to enhance the resilience of energy systems in the ECE region (cumulative)

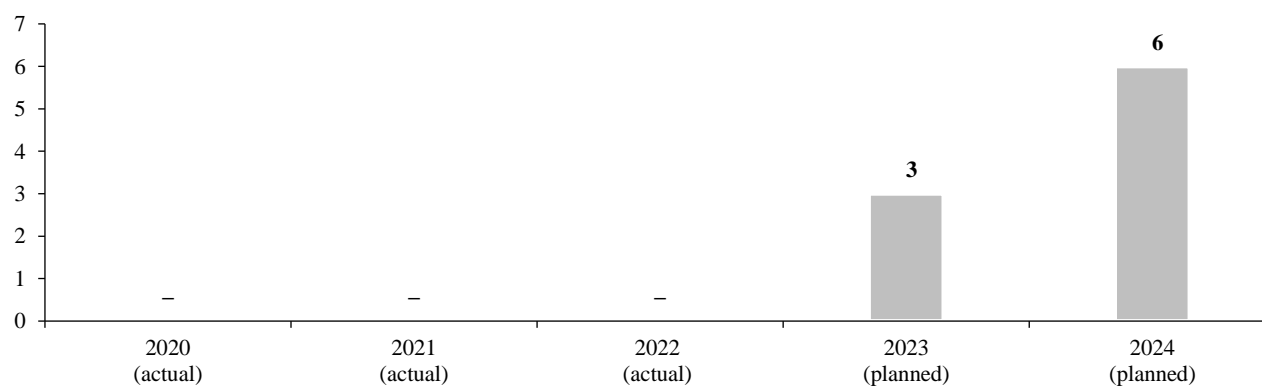


Figure 23.XXI

Performance measure: number of ECE member States fully or partially implementing the Commission’s standard for “electronic application and issuance of electronic sanitary and phytosanitary certificates” (cumulative)

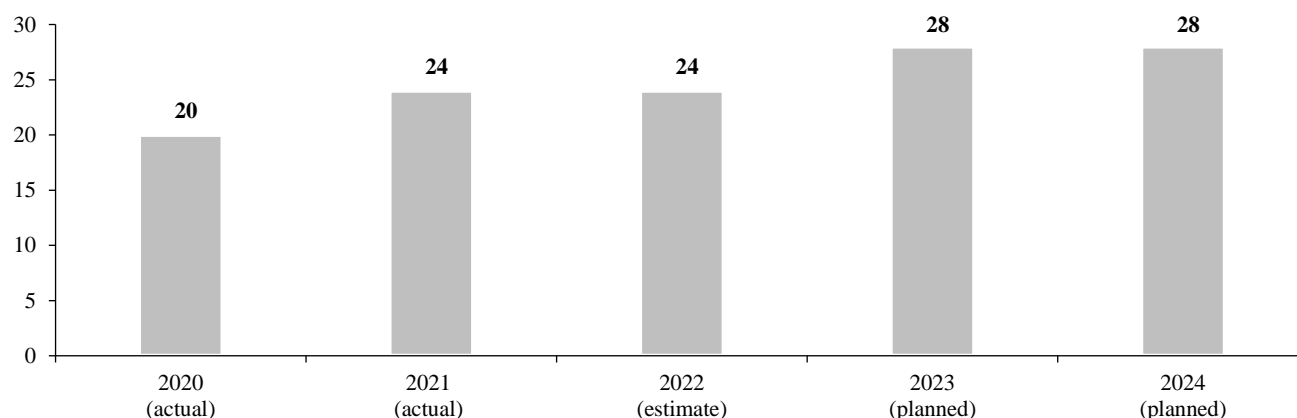


Figure 23.XXII

Performance measure: number of wood-based commodities assessments available to member States with specific information regarding their production, trade and consumption (cumulative)

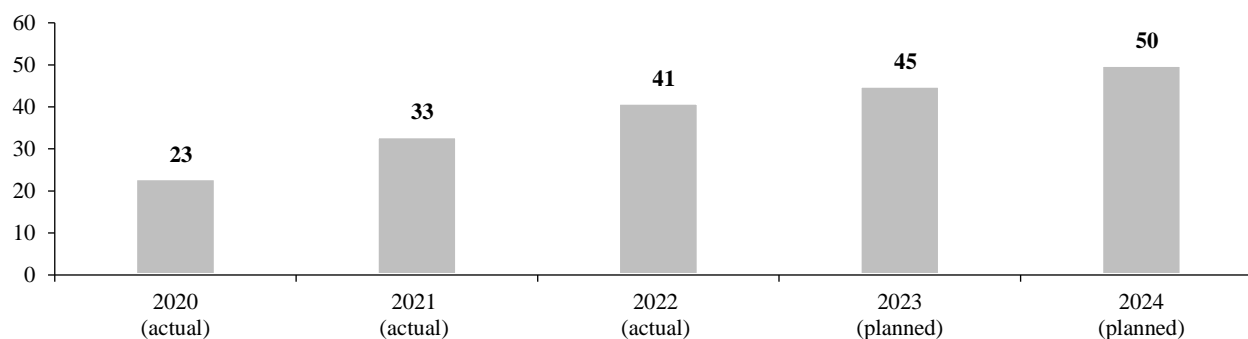


Table 23.32

Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| One smart sustainable cities profile (for Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan) using evidence-based approaches developed | Two smart sustainable cities profiles (for Hrodna, Belarus, and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) using evidence-based approaches developed | Two smart sustainable cities profile (for Tbilisi, Georgia and Podgorica, Montenegro) and one smart sustainable country/city profile (for San Marino and its cities) developed using evidence-based approaches | Four additional smart sustainable cities profiles and voluntary local reviews using evidence-based approaches developed | Four additional country/city profiles and smart sustainable city profiles and voluntary local reviews using evidence-based approaches developed Two cities implementing the recommendations contained in the profiles and voluntary local reviews |

B. Deliverables

23.159 Table 23.33 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.33

Economic Commission for Europe: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| <i>Category and subcategory</i> | <i>2022 planned</i> | <i>2022 actual</i> | <i>2023 planned</i> | <i>2024 planned</i> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 75 | 70 | 75 | 75 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.34

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | <i>2022 expenditure</i> | <i>2023 appropriation</i> | <i>Changes</i> | | <i>2024 estimate (before recosting)</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | |
| Other staff costs | 1 368.2 | 1 690.3 | – | – | 1 690.3 |
| Consultants | 580.0 | 332.7 | 70.3 | 21.1 | 403.0 |
| Experts | 0.8 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 157.3 | 197.0 | – | – | 197.0 |
| Contractual services | 76.1 | – | – | – | – |
| General operating expenses | 4.2 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 147.6 | 322.1 | – | – | 322.1 |
| Total | 2 334.2 | 2 542.1 | 70.3 | 2.8 | 2 612.4 |

23.160 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$2,612,400 and reflect an increase of \$70,300, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase under consultants (\$70,300) is to provide additional demand-driven advisory services field projects on the basis of requests from the Member States, implemented through national and regional consultants to accelerate achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation

23.161 The activities under economic and social development in Latin American and the Caribbean are implemented by ECLAC. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of ECLAC: subprogramme 1: International trade, integration and infrastructure; subprogramme 2: Production and innovation; subprogramme 3: Macroeconomic policies and growth; subprogramme 4: Social development and equality; subprogramme 6: Population and development; subprogramme 7: Sustainable development and human settlements; subprogramme 8: Natural resources; subprogramme 10: Statistics; subprogramme 11: Subregional activities in Central

America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico; and subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean.

- 23.162 In implementing those activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)).

Expected additional requests for support from member States for 2024

- 23.163 In response to an anticipated increase in the volume of requests for assistance from member States, ECLAC plans to provide additional technical cooperation, advisory services and capacity-building support to the countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region in the area of improved coordination of trade, logistics and regional integration policies, to support the following: the digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises and their participation in cross-border e-commerce and fiscal policies; the strengthening of social security systems and social protection policies to address inequalities affecting the most vulnerable; the delayed round of 2020 census and populations estimations; issues related to the care economy and non-remunerated work; gender equality and women's autonomy; sustainable management of water; energy transition; the increase in value addition in the mining sector; and statistical and data production and use.

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.164 In line with the demand-driven nature of the regular programme of technical cooperation, ECLAC raises awareness of the opportunities for Latin American and Caribbean countries to gain access to technical support from the regular programme resources through outreach and ECLAC notifications and announcements on various training offerings, in addition to face-to-face meetings with government officials, including permanent representatives, of the countries of the region, in the context of intergovernmental meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops and various capacity-building events organized by the entity. Those informal settings are better suited to make an initial assessment of a country's needs and to try to match them with in-house expertise.

Response provided to member States' requests for support in 2022

Strengthened regulations for decent work for digital platform workers (programme performance section of subprogramme 3 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)))

- 23.165 Subprogramme 3: Macroeconomic policies and growth, contributes to fostering suitable and inclusive growth in Latin America and the Caribbean by strengthening the capacity of policymakers and other stakeholders in the region to analyse current and emerging macroeconomic and development finance issues, and to evaluate, design and implement development-centred macroeconomic and development for financing policies that incorporate a gender perspective and are based on comparative analysis. Moreover, labour markets play a crucial role in channelling the benefits of strengthened macroeconomic fundamentals to society. In the region, this mechanism of transmission is hampered by high levels of informality and inequality, as well as insufficient provision of labour market intermediation services. These challenges are being aggravated by rapid changes in the world of work, with the accelerating creation of new occupations, such as those tied to digital platforms, that are less amenable to social security systems. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the rapid growth in the region of new business models based on online platforms, which have given rise to new occupations that generally do not meet the criteria of decent work, entail employment relationships that are neither wage employment nor own-account work, and in most cases are not covered by labour legislation.
- 23.166 In this regard, ECLAC continued to receive requests to support countries of the region to strengthen data collection methods to better characterize these workers, promote dialogue on options for labour regulation and generate evidence-based policy recommendations to promote decent work conditions

for platform workers. In 2022, advisory services were delivered to Chile and Colombia on the issue of labour regulations applicable to digital platform workers.

- 23.167 The above-mentioned work contributed to strengthened regulations for decent work for digital platform workers, a result in the programme performance section of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)) (see table 23.35).

Table 23.35
Performance measure

| <i>2020 (actual)</i> | <i>2021 (actual)</i> | <i>2022 (actual)</i> |
|--|---|--|
| Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Ecuador and received technical support to strengthen capacities and improve methods for collecting data on digital platform workers | Improved data collection to better capture information on digital platform workers, including through the use of methods relating to big data | Policymakers gained access to evidence-based policy recommendations for labour regulations, through studies on the cases of Chile and Colombia |
| Policymakers discussed options for labour regulations at seminars held in Costa Rica and Mexico | Policymakers shared experiences, during a seminar held in Chile and at a regional event held in the context of South-South dialogue | Chile became the first country of the region to introduce a regulatory framework for digital platform workers (Act 21.431, regulating the hiring of workers by digital platform service companies) |
| Policymakers discussed detailed studies on existing labour regulations in Argentina and Mexico | | |

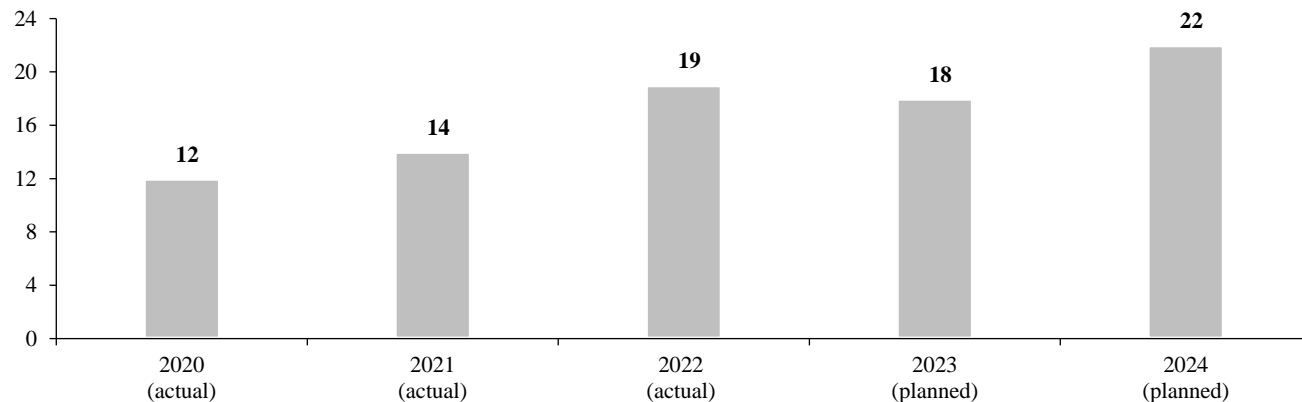
Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Member States promote the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in cross-border e-commerce
(result 3 of subprogramme 1 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)))

- 23.168 In 2024, subprogramme 1: International trade, integration and infrastructure will continue to support national officials and government authorities from countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to advance sustainable development and strengthen the role of the region in international trade and the global economy by deepening regional integration and enhancing logistics and infrastructure. The subprogramme has been providing technical assistance to export promotion agencies, trade ministries and chambers of commerce to identify the strengths and weaknesses of present support programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises and other critical pillars for their digital transformation and participation in cross-border e-commerce. The subprogramme is planning to work more closely with the with statistical institutes, export promotion agencies, trade ministries, customs and other important actors of the e-commerce ecosystem to better identify bottlenecks that hold back the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in e-commerce abroad and define more impactful solutions.
- 23.169 In response to the anticipated requests in 2024, the subprogramme would: (a) tailor its capacity-building activities and advisory services to better respond to the needs of the countries of the region, providing updated information, analysis and policy recommendations; and (b) provide technical assistance and support knowledge dissemination and the sharing of best practices through expert meetings, seminars and workshops.
- 23.170 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to Member States promoting the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in cross-border e-commerce, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 1, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 21\)](#)) (see figure 23.XXIII).

Figure 23.XXIII

Performance measure: number of Latin American and Caribbean country institutions requesting technical support in implementing more coordinated trade and logistics strategies within a regional perspective (cumulative)



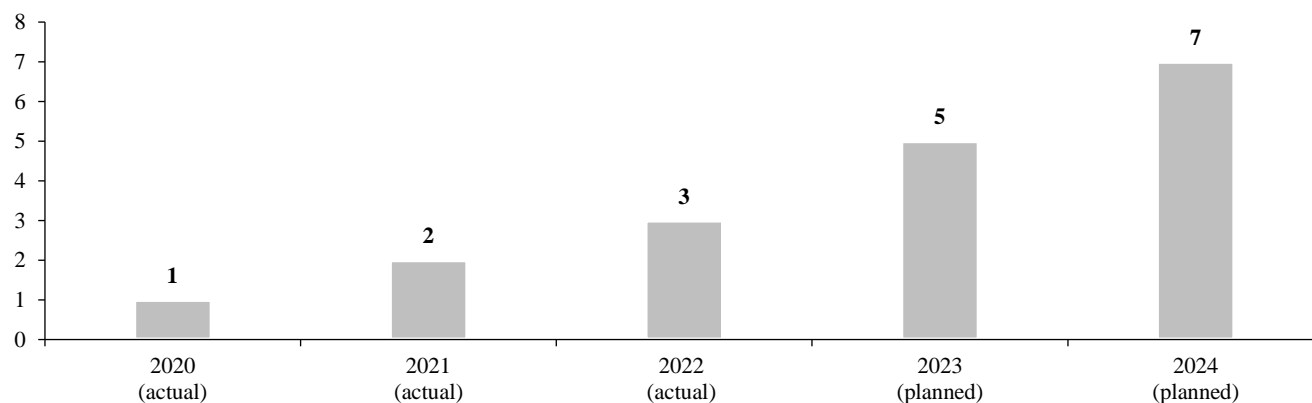
Digitalization in agriculture

(result 3 of subprogramme 6 (A/78/6 (Sect. 21)))

- 23.171 In 2024, subprogramme 8: Natural resources will continue to support countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to improve the governance and enhance the sustainable use and exploitation of natural resources, focusing on water resources management; affordable, inclusive and clean energy; extractive resources efficiency; food security; sustainable agriculture; and biodiversity. The subprogramme has been working with various Governments of the region in recent years with the aim of promoting the development of digital agriculture through the study of current technological gaps and the proposal of measures to overcome them. In addition, the subprogramme has been helping several countries to deliver capacity-building activities to train young rural entrepreneurs in this area, so that they can provide digital solutions to the specific demands of the agricultural sector in their respective countries. The subprogramme is planning to support member States in developing and implementing low-cost solutions and to promote the coordination of public actors to allow the generation of synergies and to co-implement activities contributing to the development of digital agriculture in the region.
- 23.172 In response to the anticipated requests in 2024 the subprogramme will: (a) promote the coordination of public actors in the agricultural digitalization process and its integration with the approach of sustainability and resilience of agrifood systems; and (b) provide capacity-building activities and technical assistance through training and expert meetings, seminars and workshops.
- 23.173 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to digitalization in agriculture, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 6, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 21)) (see figure 23.XXIV).

Figure 23.XXIV

Performance measure: Number of initiatives implemented by countries in the region to support digital agriculture based on low-cost solutions and the coordination of public and private actors (cumulative)



Gender-sensitive policies on paid and unpaid work in the Caribbean better informed through time-use surveys

(result 3 of subprogramme 12 (A/77/6 (Sect. 21)))

- 23.174 In 2024, subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean will continue to support countries of the Caribbean in strengthening sustainable development processes in the subregion in the economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in enhancing subregional cooperation with Latin America. The subprogramme has been working with various Governments of the subregion to assess the gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on paid and unpaid work. The subprogramme is planning to support member States in ascertaining where progress in women’s participation in the labour market has been reversed or impeded by the pandemic and provide technical assistance to advise national institutions on how to incorporate time-use modules in population and housing census and labour force surveys.
- 23.175 In response to the anticipated requests in 2024, the subprogramme will: (a) provide capacity-building activities and technical assistance through training and expert meetings, seminars and workshops; and (b) advisory services and technical assistance to expand capacity for data collection and analysis and the production of sex-disaggregated data.
- 23.176 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to gender-sensitive policies on paid and unpaid work in the Caribbean being better informed through time-use surveys, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 12, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 21)) (see table 23.36).

Table 23.36

Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---------------|---------------|--|--|---|
| – | – | Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago incorporated time-use modules in their labour force surveys and/or population and housing censuses | At least 1 additional Caribbean country commits itself to incorporating time-use modules in its population and housing census or labour force survey | At least 1 additional Caribbean country carries out a time-use survey as part of its population and housing census or labour force survey |

B. Deliverables

23.177 Table 23.37 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.37

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| <i>Category and subcategory</i> | <i>2022 planned</i> | <i>2022 actual</i> | <i>2023 planned</i> | <i>2024 planned</i> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 65 | 60 | 60 | 65 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.38

Financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | <i>2022 expenditure</i> | <i>2023 appropriation</i> | <i>Changes</i> | | <i>2024 estimate (before recosting)</i> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percentage</i> | |
| Other staff costs | 2 411.5 | 2 912.3 | – | – | 2 912.3 |
| Consultants | 1 175.6 | 658.2 | 138.9 | 21.1 | 797.1 |
| Experts | 0.3 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 320.2 | 369.7 | – | – | 369.7 |
| General operating expenses | 0.2 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 158.7 | 1 078.8 | – | – | 1 078.8 |
| Total | 4 066.5 | 5 019.0 | 138.9 | 2.8 | 5 157.9 |

23.178 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$5,157,900 and reflect a resource increase of \$138,900, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase under consultants (\$138,900) is to provide to support the provision of specialized technical assistance to the countries of the region.

11. Economic and social development in Western Asia**A. Programmatic activities delivered through the regular programme of technical cooperation**

23.179 The activities under economic and social development in Western Asia are implemented by ESCWA, which is mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development in the Arab region. The programmatic activities are implemented under the following subprogrammes of ESCWA: subprogramme 1, Climate change and natural resource sustainability; subprogramme 2, Gender justice, population and inclusive development; subprogramme 3, Shared economic prosperity; subprogramme 4, Statistics, the information society and technology; subprogramme 5, 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal coordination; and subprogramme 6, Governance and conflict prevention.

- 23.180 In implementing these activities, the regular programme of technical cooperation contributes to the objectives and expected results of the above subprogrammes and complements their respective strategies and deliverables, which can be found in the relevant paragraphs of the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)).

Expected additional requests for support from member States for 2023

- 23.181 In response to an anticipated increase in the volume of requests for assistance from member States in 2024, ESCWA would provide additional capacity-building activities and advisory services, with a focus on the newest member States that are also least developed countries, namely, Djibouti and Somalia. Additional requests are also anticipated from other the least developed country members, such as Mauritania, the Sudan and Yemen, and countries in conflict or under occupation, namely, Libya, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. Lastly, ESCWA is providing a higher number of training days every year, as requests and needs for in-person capacity development are increasing.

Outreach and dissemination of guidelines to Member States on the opportunities for assistance through the regular programme of technical cooperation

- 23.182 Outreach for the regular programme of technical cooperation is undertaken through several formal and informal channels. In December 2022, ESCWA organized a meeting of its technical cooperation network, comprising national technical cooperation focal points in member States to discuss their priorities and needs, highlight modes of delivery of the regular programme and means of requesting assistance, and present an overview of main technical cooperation interventions in member States in 2022. In May 2022, ESCWA responded to the request of the Government of Oman for an outreach workshop on the regular programme, presenting the programme, ways to benefit from it and main services and tools delivered under it. More than 60 participants from national entities concerned with economic and social development benefitted from the workshop; bilateral discussions were held the next day with several ministries; as a result, ESCWA received and is responding to more than 15 requests from Oman. Throughout the year, ESCWA also placed a discussion on the regular programme on the agendas of all formal policy dialogues held with member States in the context of intergovernmental committees, namely the committees on technology for development; statistics; and transport and logistics. ESCWA presented sectoral reports to those committees on its technical cooperation activities in their respective fields.
- 23.183 In 2022, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA led at least six outreach visits to different member States in order to advance regular programme of technical cooperation assistance provided to them. Less formal outreach channels were also activated throughout the year: staff from the different subprogrammes organized briefings or participated in meetings to showcase ESCWA technical cooperation services, contributing to some 50 outreach activities, including conferences, meetings and seminars on technical cooperation services that ESCWA renders in fields such as road safety, conflict and development, and climate change.

Review of high-level positions at headquarters duty stations (ESCWA)

- 23.184 The main function of interregional advisers based at headquarters duty stations is to provide technical expertise, facilitate the transfer of knowledge from global deliberations and latest analytical work to Governments and contribute to the formulation, assessment and/or evaluation of national policies, strategies, programmes and projects of member States at their request. The roles and functions are reflected in the job descriptions and terms of reference and are classified at the appropriate level. Any new appointments and extensions of appointments of interregional advisers are considered annually on the basis of their respective supervisors' evaluations and recommendations and sent to the Head of the Department for approval prior to the submission of the budget.

Response provided to member States' requests for support in 2022**Increased effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems in the Arab region**
(result 2 of subprogramme 2 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)))

- 23.185 The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed weaknesses in the readiness of the social protection systems of Arab countries for absorbing and responding to shocks of such magnitude. Since its onset, the pandemic has pushed more and more individuals from vulnerable groups, including women, workers in the informal labour market and persons with disabilities, into poverty and unemployment. Accordingly, throughout 2022, ESCWA received and responded to 14 requests for advisory services and capacity development in the area of social protection strengthening, from Arab least developed countries such as Mauritania and Somalia, and middle-income countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. The requests concerned different aspects of social protection, such as covering informal workers in health insurance programmes; advancing equality in health and education through conditional cash transfers; analysing data from social registries, using technology to unify and digitize such registries and creating dashboards for social protection programmes; and supporting the formulation of action plans for the graduation of beneficiaries in aid programmes.
- 23.186 In 2022, ESCWA responded to those requests through the combined efforts of its subprogrammes 2 (Gender justice, population and inclusive development) and 4 (Statistics, the information society and technology). It organized advisory missions to support national aid funds and social protection entities in unifying their social registries and digitizing corresponding data (e.g., to Jordan in September and November 2022; and to the Sudan in June 2022). The subprogrammes provided policy advice on better targeting vulnerable groups by increasing the effectiveness of social assistance, by way of advisory reports and official briefings to the five above-mentioned countries throughout the year. They also organized workshops for knowledge exchange on graduation options and on extending social protection to persons in non-standard forms of work (including entry-level workshop and training-of-trainers for Jordan on quantitative analysis in support of social protection policymaking, held in Amman in March 2022; and training for directors of social protection programmes, held in Nouakchott in September 2022). Moreover, in March 2022, ESCWA organized a study tour for social protection officials from Kuwait to the National Aid Fund in Jordan (funded through the United Nations Development Account) to support collaboration and peer exchange on social protection issues among the two countries.
- 23.187 To complement assistance under the regular programme of technical cooperation, ESCWA has leveraged its United Nations Development Account project entitled “Social Expenditure Monitor: An integrated framework for supporting macro-fiscal policies and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region”, implemented under subprogramme 3, to roll out national social expenditure monitors in Jordan and Tunisia, two of the countries that requested technical assistance under the regular programme to improve their social protection systems. These national monitors, launched in September 2022, provided a tool for Governments to monitor their social expenditure by beneficiary group, and analyse and improve its effectiveness and efficiency. ESCWA is currently rolling out the social expenditure monitor in Egypt, a third country it has assisted through the regular programme on social protection issues. In addition, ESCWA has leveraged a second United Nations Development Account project, on including persons with disabilities in the Arab labour market, to provide four train-the-trainer sessions throughout 2022 and produce training material on facilitating access of persons with disabilities to employment opportunities and supporting their graduation from aid programmes.
- 23.188 The above-mentioned work contributed to increased effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems in the Arab region, which is reflected in result 2 of subprogramme 2, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)) (see table 23.39).

Table 23.39
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| During COVID-19, at least eight member States (Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia) rapidly channelled additional assistance to households covered by social insurance and social assistance and set up temporary emergency programmes directed at informal workers who were covered neither by social assistance nor social insurance | 179 people (66 men and 113 women) from 17 member States trained on tools to increase inclusiveness of social protection systems 1 member State (Jordan) analysed the inclusiveness of its social protection systems | Civil servants and social assistance professionals from 3 member States (Egypt, Jordan and Mauritania) trained on the social protection programme rapid assessment framework tool to increase inclusiveness of social protection systems 2 member States (Egypt and Jordan) identified enhancements required to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems, in particular those related to effective coverage of currently excluded groups | 2 additional member States identify enhancements required to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems | 2 member States adopt measures to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their social protection systems |

Expected responses to anticipated requests for support in 2024

Sustainable transition to new and renewable sources of energy underpinned by a transformed extractive industries sector

(result 3 of subprogramme 1 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)))

- 23.189 Several ESCWA member States are highly dependent on fossil fuels for revenue and employment but have the opportunity to achieve a green transition by building on their natural resources and their potential in oil, gas and renewables. In the period 2021-2022, in response to a request from Kuwait, ESCWA has developed a strategic framework and road map for enabling a just transition of the energy sector. It is expected that requests of this nature will increase in the period 2023-2024 thanks to the advocacy efforts of ESCWA for member States to adopt and implement the circular economy framework. As a result, at its special seventh session, held in Amman in December 2022, ESCWA was mandated to establish a centre for supporting reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Arab region, whose functions would include advancing climate neutrality and operationalizing the circular economy approach. On 16 February 2023, ESCWA held a briefing session with the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Somalia to present its assessment of the state of the energy sector in the country and the technical cooperation services it could provide for developing a detailed long-term energy strategy beyond 2024, and it is expecting a formal request from the country in that

regard. Such demands are expected to increase, and capacity-development and advisory services would also need to increase in the context of the centre to be established from extrabudgetary sources. This will allow increasing complementarity between the regular programme of technical cooperation and other sources of funding, in order to undertake the costly assessments needed, produce the required data and generate the evidence for the formulation of just energy transition plans in ESCWA member States.

- 23.190 The expected response in 2024 would contribute to sustainable transition to new and renewable sources of energy underpinned by a transformed extractive industries sector, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 1, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)) (see table 23.40).

Table 23.40
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---------------|--|--|---|---|
| – | Regional group of experts on extractive industries established | Member States have access to information on extractive industries in the Arab region Strategic framework and road map for enabling just, inclusive, equitable and secure transition of the energy sector, based on the circular economy framework, is developed for one member State (Kuwait) | Member States have access to a suite of knowledge products and evidence on key pillars of the extractive industries sector and pathways to transition to sustainable energy systems Member States utilize the group of experts to exchange expertise and good practices, and coordinate national actions at the regional level | Member States formulate national policy frameworks in support of transforming extractive energy sector towards a transition to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern, energy systems |

Contextualized economic modelling informs development of economic, social and trade policies (result 3 of subprogramme 3 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)))

- 23.191 Since 2021, ESCWA has been making efforts to push for evidence-based policymaking in another area of work. It has developed a user-friendly interface for economic computable general equilibrium modelling, which allows policymakers to simulate the effects of a given policy on a range of economic and social indicators of their choice. It has tailored it to the needs of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, the State of Palestine and Yemen on the basis of their requests in the context of the regular programme of technical cooperation and under subprogrammes 3 and 4 (the latter being involved in the production of input and output tables and social accounting matrices needed for the model). Currently, ESCWA is responding to requests for the development of such an interface for Mauritania, Morocco, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and has very recently received a request from Saudi Arabia for such a model. It is expected that more and more member States will be interested in developing such a user-friendly economic model, which has been widely welcomed and used by those States that have already benefited from it. In parallel, ESCWA is developing another modelling interface for trade policy simulations, linking tariffs and other trade costs to a range of indicators, including foreign direct investment flows, greenhouse gas emissions, and movements and stocks of

migrants and remittances. ESCWA has received requests from Oman and the United Arab Emirates to benefit from its trade model and tailor it to their needs, and it is expected that more countries will make such requests through 2024. To respond to those needs, ESCWA will provide advisory services and training for national statistical offices to provide the required national data, and for ministries of economy, finance and central banks to tailor the model to their specific needs.

- 23.192 These efforts would contribute to contextualized economic modelling informs development of economic, social and trade policies, which is reflected in result 3 of subprogramme 3, and the related performance measure, in the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 22)) (see table 23.41).

Table 23.41
Performance measure

| 2020 (actual) | 2021 (actual) | 2022 (actual) | 2023 (planned) | 2024 (planned) |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Desktop version of the computable general equilibrium model used by Tunisia | Pilot web-based computable general equilibrium model used by Jordan | 2 national computable general equilibrium models used by the State of Palestine and Yemen | 4 additional member States use computable general equilibrium models | 3 additional member States use computable general equilibrium models |

B. Deliverables

- 23.193 Table 23.42 lists all expected deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2022–2024.

Table 23.42
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: expected deliverables for the period 2022–2024, by category and subcategory

| Category and subcategory | 2022 planned | 2022 actual | 2023 planned | 2024 planned |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| B. Generation and transfer of knowledge | | | | |
| Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days) | 74 | 136 | 82 | 190 |

C. Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2024

Table 23.43
Financial resources by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| Other staff costs | 3 796.2 | 3 051.8 | 132.6 | 4.3 | 3 184.4 |
| Consultants | 163.2 | 210.4 | – | – | 210.4 |
| Experts | 0.3 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of representatives | 2.4 | – | – | – | – |
| Travel of staff | 240.3 | 228.1 | – | – | 228.1 |
| Contractual services | 213.5 | 30.4 | – | – | 30.4 |

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

| | 2022 expenditure | 2023 appropriation | Changes | | 2024 estimate (before recosting) |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Total | Percentage | |
| General operating expenses | 9.4 | – | – | – | – |
| Supplies and materials | 2.6 | – | – | – | – |
| Furniture and equipment | 2.1 | – | – | – | – |
| Grants and contributions | 521.8 | 1 272.9 | – | – | 1 272.9 |
| Total | 4 951.8 | 4 793.6 | 132.6 | 2.8 | 4 926.2 |

23.194 The proposed regular budget resources for 2024 amount to \$4,926,200 and reflect a resource increase of \$132,600, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase under other staff costs (\$132,600) is to provide additional capacity-building workshops and advisory services to the least developed countries and conflict-affected member States.

Annex

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of advisory and oversight bodies

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

[A/77/7](#)

The Advisory Committee notes that the resources under the programme are used for positions, including at higher levels, with some for many years and in some cases exceeding five years. Taking also into consideration the short-term and small-scale nature of the programme, as well as the number of requests for assistance from the Member States, the Committee considers that a concentration of higher-level positions at Headquarters and other offices limits the opportunities to widen the level and areas of support. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to undertake a review of the levels and functions of all the positions in the implementing entities, and the duration of their incumbency, with a view to ensuring that the resources allocated to the programme are field-oriented and are used accountably and efficiently to support as many Member States as possible (para. V.93).

The Advisory Committee notes the reliance of some entities on international consultants and trusts that more efforts will be made to increase the use of national and regional consultants, taking into account the benefits of such use, including in building national capacities and addressing country-specific issues by the programme (para. V.96).

The Advisory Committee once again considers that the outreach activities of the regular programme of technical cooperation need to be further enhanced and consolidated to support the Member States, in particular the most vulnerable ones. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop a consolidated outreach plan, in close coordination with the relevant entities, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the regional commissions and the resident coordinator system, among others, to provide comprehensive information on the guidelines of the programme, including the programme's activities and performance, the lessons learned and best practices, the resources available and the criteria of the selection process, to facilitate the formulation of demands by the Member States (para. V.100).

Information relating to the reviews of the high-level positions has been included in the supplementary information for the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 23\)](#)).

The implementing entities make continuous effort to increase the use of national consultants. Nevertheless, when there is limited technical capacity in a country, international consultants bring the required expertise and are often familiar with national contexts.

In response to Advisory Committee's recommendations in its report [A/77/7](#), the Secretariat has requested The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the regular programme of technical cooperation (see para. 23.23). The Secretariat is awaiting the outcome and findings of the ongoing OIOS evaluation of section 23, which may need to be considered in the development of comprehensive guidelines and a coordinated outreach plan. The OIOS is expected to present its findings in a report to be considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in June 2024.

The Advisory Committee recalls its recommendation on the need for an assessment of the two mechanisms to maximize complementarity and the impact of the projects, in particular at the local level, and ensure the efficient use of resources, in cooperation with the resident coordinator system (para. V.103).

The United Nations Development Account and the regular programme of technical cooperation share the objective of providing coherent and focused capacity-development support to member States and to advance the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their programming and implementation approaches are, however, distinctly different. The Development Account funds medium-term interventions executed over a period of up to four years in response to requests from countries for specific development assistance. The regular programme, on the other hand, funds specific short-term and small-scale interventions in response to requests from countries for urgent, and not easily predictable, national development assistance.

There is an integrated approach at the management level in all implementing entities to consider coherence. Implementing entities use Development Account funding and regular programme funding complementarily to maximize impact in several different ways. Through the identification of synergies and areas of cooperation, coordination between the two programmes is ensured.

First, many Development Account projects are formulated on the basis of earlier interventions of the regular programme. Thus, long-term impact and sustainability of initial intervention through the regular programme is ensured by longer-term project activities. Initiatives of the regular programme can lead to the formulation of Development Account projects when the regular programme is used as seed funding for the development of Development Account projects. In other instances, requests for the regular programme from member States are scaled up and transformed into Development Account projects.

Second, the regular programme is sometimes used to implement project activities in additional countries after the closure of a Development Account project. At other times, Development Account projects give rise to additional country requests during the implementation of the project, which are responded to by using regular programme funding.

Third, where United Nations Development Account projects' activities are successful and could be expanded but funds are a constraint, implementing entities have successfully utilized funds of the regular programme and vice versa. This has allowed to deepen the interventions through the provision of further capacity-development support.

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

The Advisory Committee is of the view that a clear governance, coordination and evaluation mechanism should be established at the global, regional and local levels, and considers that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Development Coordination Office should have a leading role in focusing on coordination and evaluation at the global level. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop, and present in the context of the review report, a mechanism incorporating guidelines on governance, coordination and evaluation for all the activities of the programme at the Headquarters level (Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Development Coordination Office), regional level (regional commissions) and local level (resident coordinators and relevant entities, both resident and non-resident). The Committee considers that the mechanism should make more efforts to facilitate the submission of requests by Member States and consolidate relevant lessons learned and best practices in the progress report (para. V.106).

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in the next progress report detailed performance information related to the implementation of the projects, as well as on the development of a common standard of reporting on the programme activities (para. V.109).

The Advisory Committee notes that the implementing entities have different evaluation systems and that the most recent reviews by the Board of Auditors and OIOS were conducted in 2004 and 2018, respectively. The Committee reemphasizes that, regardless of the size of the projects, internal and external reviews should be conducted regularly to ensure the efficient implementation and the development impact of the programme. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to develop a common evaluation framework, including comprehensive policy and evaluation guidelines, to ensure the standardization of the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms across all entities and to provide an update in the context of the next progress report (para. V.111).

The Secretariat is awaiting the outcome and findings of the ongoing OIOS evaluation of section 23 (see paragraph 23.23), which may need to be considered in the development of a governance, coordination and evaluation mechanism. OIOS is expected to present its findings in a report to be considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in June 2024.

The common standard of reporting for the regular programme of technical cooperation implementing entities was developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and agreed by the implementing entities in March 2023. While the eighth progress report, which is included in the supplementary information of the present report, has been improved by agreeing on common definitions, changing the monitoring templates and systems will take time and will be incorporated in the ninth progress report, to be included in the supplementary information for the proposed programme budget for 2024.

The Secretariat is awaiting the outcome and findings of the ongoing OIOS evaluation on section 23 (see paragraph 23.23), which may need to be considered in the development of a common evaluation framework. OIOS is expected to present its findings in a report to be considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in June 2024.

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

Brief description of the recommendation

Action taken to implement the recommendation

Taking into consideration the recommendations and observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive independent review, within existing resources, of the regular programme of technical cooperation and present the findings in a separate report during the consideration of the next programme budget (para. V.116).

There is an ongoing OIOS evaluation of section 23 (see paragraph 23.23). OIOS is expected to present its findings in a report to be considered by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in June 2024.