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### Proposed programme budget for 2025

## Revised estimates resulting from General Assembly resolution 79/1, entitled “The Pact for the Future”

### Forty-fourth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2025

#### I. Introduction and background

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Revised estimates resulting from General Assembly resolution 79/1, entitled ‘The Pact for the Future’ (A/79/583). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 5 December 2024.

#### *Adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/1*

2. In its resolution 76/307 and decision 77/568, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to appoint co-facilitators as part of the preparatory process for the Summit of the Future. The co-facilitators were appointed by the President during the seventy-eighth session of the Assembly. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that informal consultations were held in 2024 on the zero draft and subsequent revisions. The co-facilitators requested the Secretariat to provide an informal indication of whether specific paragraphs would entail programme budget implications. The Secretariat also provided proposals in 11 policy briefs that deepened ideas initially laid out in the report of the Secretary-General on Our Common Agenda (A/75/982).

3. Following consultations with Member States, the President of the General Assembly submitted, on 20 September 2024, draft resolution A/79/L.2 to the Assembly. The next day, an oral statement was issued and circulated to Member States by the Secretariat indicating that the draft resolution would have resource implications pursuant to 10 paragraphs of the Pact for the Future, 5 paragraphs of the Global Digital Compact and 1 paragraph of the Declaration on Future Generations (A/79/583, paras. 2, 25 and 61). During the Summit of the Future, the Assembly adopted draft resolution A/79/L.2 as resolution 79/1 on 22 September 2024.



4. Resolution 79/1 contains the Pact for the Future, which comprises five chapters: (a) sustainable development and financing for development; (b) international peace and security; (c) science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; (d) youth and future generations; and (e) transforming global governance. The resolution also has two annexes, on the Global Digital Compact and on the Declaration on Future Generations.

#### *Revised estimates*

5. The Secretary-General indicates that the budgetary impact of resolution 79/1 for 2025 amounts to \$8,474,000, net of staff assessment, including \$5,183,600 to support the mandates contained in the Pact for the Future, and \$3,290,400 relating to the Global Digital Compact (*ibid.*, summary).

6. In terms of budgetary implications per section, the Secretary-General indicates that the total amount \$8,474,000 (net of staff assessment) includes \$2,691,700 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination; \$142,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; \$3,447,800 under section 3, Political affairs; \$90,000 under section 4, Disarmament; \$858,300 under section 9, Economic and social affairs; \$781,900 under section 12, Trade and development; \$453,900 under section 29B, Department of Operational Support; and \$7,600 under Section 29E, Administration, Geneva (*ibid.*).

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the revised estimates provide the immediate requirements for the implementation of resolution 79/1 for 2025 and 2026 to the extent that the requirements were known as at 5 December 2024. Additional resources may be required for 2026 and in subsequent years, which would be presented in the proposed programme budgets for consideration by the General Assembly in the applicable years.

## **II. Budget impact arising from the Pact for the Future**

8. The Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to paragraphs 34 (c), 37 (f), 41 (c), 42 (b), 57 (a), 74 (a), 76, 78 (b), 81 (a) and (b) and 83 (e) of resolution 79/1, the General Assembly made decisions requiring additional resources under various budget sections totalling \$5,631,200 for 2025 before recosting, including an amount of \$447,600 for staff assessment (\$6,661,300 for 2026) (*ibid.*, paras. 2–12 and table 1).

### **A. Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (section 3)**

#### *Overview and justification*

9. The implementation of the mandates contained in paragraphs 37 (f), 41 (c) and 42 (b) of resolution 79/1 would require an amount of \$3,447,800 for 2025 (\$5,071,800 for 2026) under section 3, Political affairs (*ibid.*, para. 5 and tables 1 and 3).

10. With regard to the overall basis for the requirements, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, in the Pact for the Future, Member States expressed their concern about the increasing and diverse threats to international peace and security and decided to intensify the use of diplomacy and mediation to ease tensions in situations that might pose a threat to international peace and security, including through early diplomatic efforts. Moreover, the Secretary-General is urged in the Pact to actively use his good offices and ensure that the United Nations is adequately equipped to lead and support mediation and preventive diplomacy. In addition, the Member States decided to support the role of regional and subregional organizations in diplomacy, mediation and the pacific settlement of disputes, and to strengthen the

coordination and cooperation among these organizations and the United Nations in that regard (General Assembly resolution 79/1, paras. 32, 37 (e), 37 (f) and 37(g)). According to the information provided, the language of the Pact makes clear that Member States expect an augmentation of this work.

11. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the request to intensify the use of good offices, mediation and preventive diplomacy and strengthen the coordination and cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations in these areas should also be considered in the broader context of the reprioritization of the United Nations mandates, taking into account, in particular, the forthcoming reviews of the peace operations and the peacebuilding architecture (see General Assembly resolution 75/201, para. 5, Security Council resolution 2558 (2020), para. 5, and General Assembly resolution 79/1, para. 42 (b)). Moreover, the Committee considers that, in view of their importance, future partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations in terms of mediation and preventive diplomacy should be further defined and that detailed information on resources, including existing capacities, should be provided in the next programme budget submission.**

12. **In view of the above, the Advisory Committee recommends a phased approach in the increase in resources for conflict prevention, with the most urgent needs covered through the revised estimates for 2025, while additional requirements would be considered in the proposed programme budget for 2026, following the reprioritization exercise and a comprehensive assessment of the resources required, to fully ensure that the United Nations is adequately equipped. Such an approach would allow the Committee for Programme and Coordination to assess the deliverables associated with the proposed resources.**

*Post resources*

**1. Proposed resources**

13. The proposed post resources, amounting to \$2,479,300 for 2025 (\$4,524,200 in 2026), would provide for the establishment of 22 posts (3 P-5, 13 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2/1 and 3 General Service (Other level)) to strengthen the mediation and preventive capacities of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, as follows (see also [A/79/583](#), para. 16 and annex III):

(a) Subprogramme 1, Prevention, management and resolution of conflicts:

(i) Policy and Mediation Division:

a. Policy planning functions: six posts (4 Political Affairs Officer (P-4), 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and 1 Programme Management Assistant General Service (Other level));

b. Mediation support functions: four posts (Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5), Political Affairs Officer (P-3), Associate Political Affairs Officer (P-2) and Programme Management Assistant (General Service (Other level)));

c. Gender, peace and security functions: 1 post (Political Affairs Officer (P-4));

(ii) Regional political-operational structure:

a. One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) in Addis Ababa, mainly to liaise with and support the African Union Commission on matters related to mediation and preventive diplomacy;

b. One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) in Jakarta, primarily to liaise with the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on matters related to mediation and preventive diplomacy;

c. One Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in Brussels, mainly to participate in liaison with European Union institutions on matters related to mediation and preventive diplomacy;

d. Four posts of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in New York, including one in the Europe and Central Asia Division, two in the Middle East Division and one in the Western Africa Division;

(b) Subprogramme 6, Peacebuilding Support Office:

a. One Political Affairs Officer (P-4), mainly to support system-wide engagement with the World Bank and other international and regional financial institutions on partnerships on preventive diplomacy matters;

b. One Political Affairs Officer (P-4), primarily to provide dedicated resources for the development of various approaches to advance youth participation and engagement in mediation and preventive diplomacy efforts and to enhance progress on the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda;

(c) Programme support: one Human Resources Officer (P-4) and one Human Resources Assistant/Human Resources Partner (General Service (Other level)) to ensure effective administrative support.

## 2. Policy and Mediation Division

14. With regard to existing resources, the information provided shows that the staff complement of the Policy and Mediation Division comprises 24 posts and 12 positions (see *ibid.*, annex I). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that resources for mediation and preventive diplomacy also included:

(a) Mediation field resources: special political missions, including special envoys, regional offices and country-based missions, have, in general, a small political section staffed by political affairs officers who advise the head of mission regarding the political aspects of their mandate, including, as relevant, the work on preventive diplomacy and mediation;

(b) Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers: in coordination with the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs manages the Standby Team as a complementary mediation support capacity. The Committee was also informed that, on average, in a given year the Policy Mediation Division and the Standby Team members deploy, upon request, on more than 100 occasions in 25 to 30 country contexts. There were 131 Standby Team deployments in 2023 and 21 deployments by staff experts of the Department, for an overall total of 152 mediation support deployments in 28 countries. During 2024, approximately \$3.25 million in voluntary contributions was received to undertake mediation and preventive diplomacy, including to fund the Standby Team.

15. The proposed posts could be considered in relation to the existing posts dedicated to each of the functions of the Policy and Mediation Division, as follows:

(a) Policy planning: these functions are covered by five regular budget posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)). It is proposed that the policy planning functions be strengthened through the establishment of six posts (4 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) (*ibid.*, para. 16 (a) (iii)). **In view of the existing resources and the need to determine the overall requirements in the context of the incoming reviews and assessment (see paras. 10–11 above), the Advisory Committee considers that the establishment of two posts of Political Officer (P-4 and P-3) would suffice to perform the additional policy planning functions at this stage. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the**

**proposed establishment of three posts of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and one post of Programme Management Assistant (General Service (Other level));**

(b) Mediation support: eight regular budget posts (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 General Service (Other level)) cover these functions. It is proposed that the mediation support functions of the Division be strengthened through the establishment of four posts (P-5, P-3, P-2 and General Service (Other level)) (ibid., para. 16 (a) (iv)). **In view of the existing resources and the need to better assess the overall requirements in the context of the incoming reviews and assessment (see paras. 10–11 above), the Advisory Committee considers that the establishment of one post of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) and one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-3) would be sufficient to perform the additional mediation support functions at this stage. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one post of Associate Political Affairs Officer (P-2) and one post of Programme Management Assistant (General Service (Other level));**

(c) Gender, peace and security: two Professional posts funded from the regular budget (P-5 and P-4) cover these functions. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that two extrabudgetary positions (P-4 and P-3) are also dedicated to those functions. It is proposed that one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) be established in support of these functions (ibid., para. 16 (a) (v)). **In view of the existing resources, including those available in the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the need to better assess the overall requirements in the context of the incoming reviews and assessment (see paras. 10–11 above), the Advisory Committee considers that the existing resources are sufficient to perform the gender, peace and security functions at this stage. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4).**

### 3. Regional political-operational structure

16. The Secretary-General indicates that the role of regional and subregional organizations in preventive diplomacy and mediation is expected to continue to grow and that, for many years, the United Nations has invested in strengthening partnerships with regional and subregional organizations (ibid., 16 (a) (vi)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the staffing resources to liaise with regional and subregional organizations included the following Professional posts: (a) regular budget posts: 1 P-5 at the League of Arab States in Cairo; and (b) extrabudgetary positions: 1 P-5 at the liaison office in southern Africa in Gaborone, which also engages the South African Development Community; 1 P-5 at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna; 1 P-4 at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Beijing; and 1 P-4 at the European Union in Brussels.

17. It is proposed that one post of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) be established in Addis Ababa to liaise with and support the African Union Commission on matters related to mediation and preventive diplomacy and to formulate political strategies in defining United Nations support for the African Union on early warning, prevention and support to peace processes (ibid., para. 16 (a) (vii) a.). The Advisory Committee notes that the staffing complement of the United Nations Office to the African Union comprises 58 posts and positions for 2024 (see [A/79/6 \(Sect. 3\)](#), table 3.68). **In view of the existing staffing resources currently available in the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one post of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) in Addis Ababa. The Committee looks forward to the independent evaluation of the United Nations Office to the African Union.**

18. It is proposed that one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) be established in Brussels to maintain liaison with the European Union institutions on matters related

to mediation and preventive diplomacy and to formulate political strategies in defining areas for cooperation between the United Nations and European Union institutions on early warning, prevention and support for peace processes (*ibid.*, para. 16 (a) (vii) c.). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that one position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) was already deployed in Brussels and tasked with analysing political and security trends in the European Union. **In view of the existing resources, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in Brussels at this stage.**

19. It is also proposed that one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) be established in New York to conduct in-depth research and analysis and formulate strategies on critical thematic aspects related to the conflict in Ukraine (*ibid.*, para. 16 (a) (viii) and annex III). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Ukraine portfolio is managed by the Europe and Central Asia Division within the shared regional structure of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations. Currently, one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) is dedicated to day-to-day handling of files related to the Russian Federation and Ukraine as part of the Eastern Europe team led by a Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5). **In view of the existing resources, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that additional human resources are needed at this stage. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in the Europe and Central Asia Division.**

20. It is further proposed that two posts of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) be established in the Middle East Division in New York, including one post to develop innovative approaches and targeted initiatives that respond to the complex regional dynamics and promote greater regional cohesion in the wider regional context of the Middle East through comprehensive, high-quality analysis (*ibid.*, para. 16 (a) (ix) and annex III). **The Advisory Committee notes that the Middle East Division is staffed with 13 regular budget posts under section 3, 1 regular budget post under section 5, 7 posts funded by the support account under section 5 and 14 extrabudgetary positions under section 3 (see [A/79/583](#), annex I) and considers that the above-mentioned functions could be performed within existing resources. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in the Middle East Division.**

21. It is proposed that one post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) be established in the Western Africa Division in New York to follow up on meetings and decisions of the Security Council and other inter-governmental bodies related to Mali and to participate in fact-finding, planning, preventive diplomacy or peace-making missions to Mali and the region (*ibid.*, para. 16 (a) (x) and annex III). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, following the closure of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs inherited the responsibility for Mali from the Department of Peace Operations, necessitating a dedicated desk officer to manage this complex file. The Western Africa Division has a staff complement of 16 regular budget posts under section 3, 1 post funded from the support account under section 5 and 1 extrabudgetary position under section 3 (see *ibid.*, annex I). The Committee was also informed that five new Professional posts for the United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel in Dakar were specifically justified to provide the Office with the additional capacity needed to address the impact of the Mission's drawdown and to assume responsibilities previously managed by the Mission, in particular in regional conflict prevention and political engagement. **In view of the existing resources, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in the Western Africa Division.**

#### 4. Peacebuilding Support Office

22. It is proposed that one post of Political Officer (P-4) be established in the Peacebuilding Support Office to provide dedicated resources for the development of various approaches to advance youth participation and engagement in mediation and preventive diplomacy efforts and to enhance progress on the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda (*ibid.*, para. 16 (b) (ii) and annex III).

23. The Advisory Committee notes that, in 2023, the United Nations Youth Office was established in the Secretariat with a staff complement of 16 regular budget posts (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 5 P-3, 6 P-2 and 1 General Service (Other level)) (see [A/78/949](#), para. 10). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, while the United Nations Youth Office focuses broadly on youth development, empowerment and participation across various sectors, the proposed resources for youth affairs in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (1 post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4), 1 general temporary assistance-funded position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) for 24 months, 1 one lead consultant and 1 junior consultant) would focus on activities specific to peacebuilding, conflict prevention or Security Council-related initiatives. The Committee also notes that the Peacebuilding Support Office includes 17 regular budget posts and 10 extrabudgetary positions (see *ibid.*, annex I). **In view of the existing and proposed resources, the Advisory Committee considers that the activities of the proposed post dedicated to youth affairs could be absorbed within existing resources and consequently recommends against the establishment of the post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) in the Peacebuilding Support Office. The Committee trusts that policy leadership will be clearly established between the Office and the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, given their respective areas of expertise, with regard to the preparation of the second independent progress study on the positive contribution of young people to peace processes and conflict resolution (see resolution 79/1, para. 41 (c)). The related non-post resources should be allocated accordingly.**

#### 5. Programme support

24. It is proposed that one post of Human Resources Officer (P-4) and one post of Human Resources Assistant/Human Resources Partner (General Service (Other level)) be established to reinforce the capacity of the Executive Office shared between the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations in view of the proposed establishment of 20 substantive posts in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. **In view of its recommendations against the proposed establishment of 13 posts in the substantive part of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (see paras. 14–20 above), the Advisory Committee considers that the additional human resources needed for the recruitment and management of 7 new posts could be absorbed within existing resources. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one post of Human Resources Officer (P-4) and one post of Human Resources Assistant (General Service (Other level)) for programme support.**

25. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 15 to 24 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed post resources. The related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly (see para. 27 below).**

26. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 October 2024, 29 posts were vacant in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to fill the vacant posts as soon as possible.**

*Non-post resources*

27. Pursuant to paragraphs 37 (f) and 41 (c) of resolution 79/1, non-post resources amounting to \$968,500 are proposed for 2025 (\$547,600 for 2026) under section 3, as follows (A/79/583, para. 17):

(a) Other staff costs: \$227,600 for the establishment of one general temporary assistance-funded position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) for 24 months (2025–2026) to conduct the second independent progress study on youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution;

(b) Consultants: \$153,000, including: (i) \$101,800 to cover the costs of one lead consultant for 11 months in total, divided evenly between 2025 and 2026, and one junior consultant for 12 months in total, divided evenly between 2025 and 2026, to prepare the second independent progress study on youth’s positive contributions to peace processes and conflict resolution; and (ii) non-recurrent resources for the travel of two consultants for 5 two-person trips (\$51,200) for regional consultations in five regions and 1 one-person trip to New York to present the second independent progress study;

(c) Travel of staff: \$163,300 for travel in relation to consultations with officials, consultations on mediation processes and meetings with regional organizations. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to intensify the use of virtual means of communications with a view to minimizing in-person travel expenses and, in view of its recommendations against the proposed establishment of 13 substantive posts (see paras. 15–24 above), recommends an additional reduction of 20 per cent (\$32,700) to the proposed resources for travel of staff;**

(d) Contractual services: \$111,800, including: (i) non-recurrent resources to cover the enhancement of the existing digital platform using artificial intelligence and natural language processing to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations for inclusive dialogue in support of the conduct of the second independent progress study on youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution (\$50,000); (ii) non-recurrent resources of \$25,000 to cover conference expenses for five regional consultations for the second independent progress study; and (iii) \$36,800 to cover data processing services, including the cost of centrally provided support for office automation equipment by the Office of Information and Communications Technology under a service-level agreement. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to use internal resources as much as possible, including in the area of youth’s contribution to peace processes, and recommends an additional reduction of 20 per cent (\$22,400) to the proposed resources for contractual services;**

(e) Grants and contributions: \$248,400 in non-recurrent requirements for the travel of 50 participants for regional consultations in five regions for the second independent progress study on youth’s positive contributions to peace processes and conflict resolution;

(f) Resources are also requested under general operating expenses (\$6,900), supplies and materials (\$4,600) and furniture and equipment (\$52,900), including \$46,300 in non-recurrent requirements under furniture and equipment.

28. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 25 and 27 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 3.**



## B. Department of Economic and Social Affairs (section 9)

29. Pursuant to paragraphs 57 (a), 76, 78 (b), 81 (a) and 83 (e) of resolution 79/1, non-post resources in the amount of \$858,300 for 2025 (\$572,500 for 2026) are proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, as follows (A/79/583, para. 19):

(a) Other staff costs: \$600,300 for the establishment of the following general temporary assistance positions:

(i) One position of Sustainable Development Officer (P-3) for four months to develop a monitoring and measuring mechanism on ongoing global progress to bridge the science and technology gap in line with the request contained in paragraph 57 (a) of resolution 79/1;

(ii) One position of Executive Secretary (P-5) for nine months to support and manage the work of the high-level expert group to be established, which is tasked with developing recommendations for country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complement and go beyond gross domestic product;

(iii) One position of Programme Management Officer (P-3) for nine months to support the work of the high-level expert group;

(iv) One position of Economic Affairs Officer (P-3) for nine months to support all aspects of the preparation of the biennial summit at the level of Heads of State and Government to strengthen existing and establish more systematic links and coordination between the United Nations and the international financial institutions, as called for in paragraphs 76 and 78 (b) of resolution 79/1. **Considering that the summit will take place every second year and that the establishment of a post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) is proposed to support system-wide engagement with the World Bank and other international and regional financial institutions on partnerships on preventive diplomacy matters (A/79/583, para. 16 (b) (i)), the Advisory Committee is of the view that tasks related to the preparation of the biennial summit could be performed using existing resources. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of a general temporary assistance-funded position of Economic Affairs Officer (P-3) for nine months;**

(b) Consultants: \$110,000 (non-recurrent) to support the work of the high-level expert group as called for in paragraphs 81 (a) and 83 (e) of resolution 79/1. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to use internal resources as much as possible, in particular in relation to the core function of supporting expert groups, and recommends a reduction of 20 per cent (\$22,000) to the proposed resources for consultants;**

(c) Experts: \$133,100 (non-recurrent) for the travel of 15 members of the high-level expert group for two sessions in 2025, as called for in paragraph 81 (a) of resolution 79/1;

(d) Travel of staff: \$9,900 for the travel of two staff members to support the meeting of the high-level expert group in Geneva;

(e) General operating expenses: \$5,000 (non-recurrent) to cover various meeting-related costs in New York and Geneva of the high-level expert group in 2025, as called for in paragraph 81 (a) of resolution 79/1.

30. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraph 29 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 9.**

### C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (section 12)

31. Pursuant to paragraphs 76, 78 (b) and 81 (a) of resolution 79/1, non-post resources in the amount of \$385,200 are proposed for 2025 (\$295,900 for 2026) under section 12, Trade and development, as follows (A/79/583, para. 20):

(a) Other staff costs: \$367,200 for the establishment of general temporary assistance-funded positions for one Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) for nine months to support, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, all aspects relating to the preparation of the biennial summit; and one Data Scientist (P-4) for nine months to provide mainly, in coordination with the Department, substantive technical guidance and analytical backstopping to the high-level expert group on methodologies, indicators and statistics available to measure progress. **Considering the proposed establishment of a post of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) to support system-wide engagement with the World Bank and other international and regional financial institutions, and of three temporary positions to support the high-level expert group (A/79/583, para. 16 (b) (i), and para. 29 (a) above), the Advisory Committee is of the view that these new resources could be used to support the preparation for the biennial summit and the high-level expert group. Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction in the time of employment of one position of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) and one position of Data Scientist (P-4) from nine to six months each;**

(b) Travel of staff: \$18,000 (non-recurrent) for staff to participate in the biennial summit and support the meeting of the high-level expert group in New York.

**32. Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 31 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the non-post resources under section 12.**

### D. Department of Operational Support (section 29B)

33. Non-post resources amounting to \$284,000 are proposed for 2025 under section 29B, Department of Operational Support, for general operating expenses related to office space alterations in respect of the proposed establishment of 19 new posts (16 Professional and 3 General Service) and 1 temporary position in New York, proposed under section 3, Political affairs (A/79/583, para. 21). **In view of its recommendations against the proposed establishment of 11 posts in New York (see paras. 14 and 18–23 above), the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources for office alteration be adjusted accordingly.**

**34. Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 33 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 29B.**

### E. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (section 2)

35. Non-post resources amounting to \$118,300 are proposed for 2025 (\$49,000 for 2026) under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, in relation to other staff costs pursuant to paragraphs 42 (b), 78 (b), 81 (a) and 83 (e) of resolution 79/1. The Secretary-General indicates that the implementation of the mandate contained in paragraph 41 (c) would require one document with a word count of 8,500 words in 2026 before the end of the eightieth session of the General Assembly. Paragraph 42 (b) would entail four meetings in New York in 2025 with interpretation, as well as one document with a word count of 8,500 words in 2026. Paragraphs 78 (b), 81 (a) and 83 (e) would each entail one document

with a word count of 8,500 words in 2025. These meetings and documents would be provided in all six official languages of the United Nations (A/79/583, paras. 4 and 14). **Considering that some documents will be issued in 2026, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 20 per cent (\$23,700) to the proposed resources for 2025.**

**36. Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 35 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 2.**

#### **F. Disarmament (section 4)**

37. Non-post resources of \$90,000 are proposed for 2025 under section 4, Disarmament, pursuant to paragraph 34 (c) of resolution 79/1, as follows (A/79/583, para. 18):

(a) Consultants: \$29,600 to cover the costs of technical expertise required to support the preparation and drafting of an analysis on the impact of the global increase in military expenditure on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Experts: \$14,600 to cover the costs of travel of up to five experts for a two-day validation workshop;

(c) Contractual services: \$45,800 to cover the costs for the development and dissemination of materials.

**38. The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 4.**

### **III. Budget impact arising from the Global Digital Compact**

39. The Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to paragraphs 48, 56, 63, 72 and 74 of the Global Digital Compact contained in annex I to its resolution 79/1, the General Assembly created new mandates requiring additional resources in different budget sections totalling \$3,615,100 for 2025 before recosting, including an amount of \$324,700 for staff assessment (\$4,359,600 for 2026 in total) (A/79/583, paras. 25–38 and table 8).

#### **A. Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (under section 1)**

##### *Mandate and background*

##### **1. Mandate overview**

40. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies in accordance with paragraph 72 of the Global Digital Compact. The Office would incorporate the existing activities and resources of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, while also strengthening United Nations system-wide coordination on digital cooperation and supporting the implementation of the Global Digital Compact (A/79/583, para. 27).

41. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies is proposed to be placed under budget section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, owing to its following functions: (a) advise the United Nations senior leadership on key trends in technology in order to guide the strategic approach taken by the Organization on such issues; (b) serve as advocate and focal point for digital cooperation through engagement with Member States, the technology industry, civil society and other stakeholders; (c) facilitate multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on digital and emerging technologies; (d) strengthen system-wide

coordination within and across the United Nations on digital and emerging technologies; and (e) support the follow-up and implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

42. With regard to the definition of emerging technologies, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, in general, emerging technologies are characterized by novelty, uncertainty, evolving applications and unrealized potential, and thus require a multidisciplinary and whole-of-system approach. However, there is no single definition of emerging technologies in the United Nations. The Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies, which was issued in 2018, refers to artificial intelligence, robotics, material sciences, social networking and biotechnology, while the Road Map for Digital Cooperation of 2020 refers to a range of technologies in the context of promoting connectivity and the digital economy, digital capacity-building and the Sustainable Development Goals (A/74/821, paras. 20, 33 and 72). The Committee was also informed that, during consultations prior to the submission of the present budget proposal, Member States called for the mandate of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies to remain fit for purpose in a fast-changing field and for its name and mandate to maintain flexibility in order to cover evolving issues in the face of technological change, including explicit reference to "emerging technologies", "capacity-building of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence in the Global South" and "system-wide coordination on digital and emerging technologies".

43. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the added value of the new Office reflects the following: (a) the Office is positioned as a small, strategic office with a cross-sectoral focus, building on the activities of the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology and reporting to the Secretary-General; (b) Member States and stakeholders, in particular smaller delegations or organizations, will continue to benefit from having a first port of call in the United Nations system, giving them greater ability to engage and participate in more inclusive multi-stakeholder policy dialogue processes; (c) United Nations system entities will benefit from an honest broker that can facilitate coordination and exchange, enabling the whole to deliver more than the sum of its parts in supporting the implementation of the Global Digital Compact for the benefit of Member States; and (d) developing countries will benefit from the above, as well as from more targeted policy advocacy, advice and guidance on technology issues.

44. With regard to the last point, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Envoy on Technology and the newly appointed Managing Director of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries have engaged at regular intervals and agreed on strengthened collaboration. The proposed cooperation, which forms part of the plans of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies for 2025–2027, focuses, among others, on identifying technology transfer opportunities, the analysis of technology and innovation ecosystems to identify best practices across the least developed countries, and leveraging artificial intelligence to accelerate scientific discovery and innovation in these countries. This will involve utilizing the Technology Bank's technology needs assessments and knowledge to help to identify priorities and support the requirements of the least developed countries. Existing cooperation mechanisms, such as the digital cooperation fund, can be leveraged to advance this collaboration.

## **2. Facilitating cooperation**

45. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that current capacities across the United Nations system in the field of digital cooperation are spread across entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office for Disarmament Affairs,

the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organization (WHO) (following the 2018 World Health Assembly resolution on digital health), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the Global Digital Compact does not pursue centralized digital cooperation and explicitly recognizes the broad and decentralized nature of digital activities. The Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies will focus on horizontal facilitation and not hierarchical oversight. The Committee was further informed that the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology has supported two United Nations system mapping exercises regarding digital cooperation:

(a) A mapping of digital-related initiatives across the United Nations system (November 2021) was conducted with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and surveyed more than 40 United Nations system entities in relation to the Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation and solicited more than 500 submissions on their digital-related activities. This exercise helped the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology to identify gaps and prioritize and strategically position its subsequent activities in 2022–2024 to avoid duplication;

(b) The Secretary-General's policy brief on the Global Digital Compact (May 2023) mapped existing United Nations intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder digital cooperation bodies and forums. In the policy brief, the Secretary-General noted overlaps in some existing cooperation efforts and gaps in some emerging digital issues (e.g. data governance). On page 19 of the policy brief, the Secretary-General underlined the need for "sustained, networked collaboration" to overcome "fragmented and irregular policy discussions that have characterized digital coordination to date".

### 3. Coordination

46. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that no existing entity has the cross-sectoral mandate required to effectively facilitate coordination across or represent the United Nations in relation to the Global Digital Compact and to interface with external stakeholders to successfully facilitate coordination to implement the Global Digital Compact. The Committee was provided with information on the existing United Nations coordination arrangements, including in the area of digital and emerging technologies (see table 1).

Table 1  
United Nations coordination arrangements

<i>Coordination group (year of establishment)</i>	<i>Mandate or role</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Secretariat capacity</i>
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (1946)	"To insure the fullest and most effective implementation of the agreements entered into between the United Nations and the specialized agencies" (Economic and Social Council resolution 13 (III))	Executive Heads of the United Nations, its 12 funds and programmes, the 15 specialized agencies and 3 related organizations	CEB secretariat
High-level Committee on Programmes (2000)	"Fostering coherence, cooperation and coordination on policy and programme dimensions of strategic issues for the United Nations system" (terms of reference of the High-level Committee on Programmes)	Senior staff of CEB member organizations responsible for policy, programme planning and development	

<i>Coordination group (year of establishment)</i>	<i>Mandate or role</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Secretariat capacity</i>
United Nations Group on the Information Society (2006)	“To facilitate the implementation of [World Summit on the Information Society] outcomes” (Tunis Agenda for the Information Society)	39 agencies	ITU (plus UNCTAD UNDP, UNESCO, rotating) (extrabudgetary)
United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (2015)	Serve as a gateway for “information on science, technology and innovation initiatives ... within and beyond the United Nations” (Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development)	47 United Nations entities	Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD
Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (2020)	“Aim to combine the ethical and technological parts of the United Nations to provide a solid foundation for current and future system-wide efforts on [artificial intelligence] with a view to ensuring respect for human rights and accelerating progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals]” (draft terms of reference of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence)	Open to all interested members and observers of the High-level Committee on Programmes who are working to address artificial intelligence-related issues	ITU, UNESCO (extrabudgetary)

*Note:* Other potentially relevant inter-agency coordination arrangements include those on hate speech, information integrity and the Secretary-General’s call to action on human rights, and the United Nations Legal Identity Task Force, among others.

*Abbreviations:* CEB, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; ITU, International Telecommunication Union; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

47. The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that additional internal coordination mechanisms on information and communications technology (ICT) focus on internal ICT operational support and management within the United Nations system entities rather than on international or multi-stakeholder cooperation on digital policy issues. The Committee was further informed that both the Office of Information and Communications Technology and the United Nations International Computing Centre have an exclusively intraorganizational focus as ICT service providers to client entities within the United Nations Secretariat or system. The Committee notes that the resources of the United Nations to facilitate public policy issues pertaining to digital technologies also include the Internet Governance Forum.

**48. The Advisory Committee is of the view that further consultations and analysis would allow for the comprehensive mapping of the existing United Nations coordination mechanisms and the identification of gaps in this area to ensure that the coordinating role of the new Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies is fully understood and implemented in conjunction with other entities and mechanisms, including the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlap.**

#### **4. Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology**

49. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Secretary-General first identified the potential added value of an Envoy on Technology and

indicated his intention to appoint one in his 2018 strategy on new technologies. The report of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation issued in June 2019 and the Secretary-General's subsequent Road Map for Digital Cooperation set out the proposed functions of the Envoy (see A/74/821, para. 74). The first Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology was appointed in 2021. Between 2021 and 2022, the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology focused on supporting the Envoy in his role of leading system-wide coordination of the implementation of the Road Map for Digital Cooperation.

50. The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the negotiation and adoption of the Global Digital Compact occurred with the understanding that "incorporating the activities and resources of the existing Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology" would imply a proposal for continuing the Office's existing functions, which include: (a) advising United Nations senior leadership on key trends in technology, so as to guide the strategic approach taken by the Organization on such issues; (b) serving as advocate and focal point for digital cooperation, through engagement with Member States, the technology industry, civil society and other stakeholders; and (c) facilitating multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on digital and emerging technologies.

51. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the voluntary contributions received by the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology between 1 January 2021 and 20 November 2024, as contained in table 2.

Table 2

**Voluntary contributions received by the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology, 1 January 2021 to 20 November 2024**

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contributions received</i>
European Union	1 794 475
Patrick J. McGovern Foundation	1 500 000
United Nations Development Programme Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (digital cooperation fund)	583 938
Japan	321 197
United Nations Children's Fund	274 268
Switzerland	200 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	194 693
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	93 458
Organisation internationale de la Francophonie	39 752
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 271 782</b>

52. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the staff composition of the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology as at 30 November 2024 (see table 3).

Table 3  
**Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology positions, by function, level and nationality of incumbent**

<i>Function</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Nationality</i>
Under-Secretary-General	USG	India
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Switzerland
Programme Management Officer	P-4	El Salvador
Associate Programme Management Officer	P-2	Germany
Assistant Programme Management Officer, Administration	P-1	Ecuador
Administrative Assistant	GS (OL)	United States of America
Associate Expert (Junior Professional Officer)	P-2	Republic of Korea
Associate Expert (Junior Professional Officer)	P-2	Italy
Associate Expert (Junior Professional Officer)	P-2	Germany
Programme Management Officer	P-4	[vacant]
Programme Management Officer	P-4	[vacant]

*Abbreviations:* GS (OL), General Service (Other level); USG, Under-Secretary-General.

53. With regard to the expected extrabudgetary resources for the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that outreach would be made to existing bilateral donors to determine the future of current agreements, resulting in either a mutually agreed conclusion or continuation. The present proposal does not presume the continuation of existing agreements. Going forward, the new office will seek to develop a resource mobilization strategy to supplement existing activities with extrabudgetary resources.

## 5. Road Map for Digital Cooperation

54. In terms of the relationship between the Road Map for Digital Cooperation and the Global Digital Compact, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the implementation process for the Compact will dovetail with the operationalization of the recommendations from the Road Map, which will remain a reference point for the work of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies. The Committee was also informed that the adoption of the Compact marked the start of a transition, whereby the themes from the Road Map would be taken up in the context of implementation of the Compact, given that there is strong alignment between the two texts in both thematic areas and commitments. These include but are not limited to connectivity, digital public goods, human rights, digital trust and security, and the strengthening of digital cooperation.

## 6. Procedure

55. With regard to the timing of the revised estimates, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the urgency of the proposal stems from the imperative of ensuring timely, transparent and accountable follow-up to the Global Digital Compact. Member States have set ambitious timelines for its follow-up and



implementation. Paragraphs 63 and 71 of the Compact contain requests for the delivery of specific outputs during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, including, in 2025, the submission of a report on innovative financing options for artificial intelligence capacity-building.

*Proposed resources*

56. The proposed resources for the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies amount to \$2,691,700 for 2025 (\$3,436,900 for 2026) (see [A/79/583](#), table 9).

57. The proposed post resources of \$2,302,900 for 2025 (\$3,139,700 in 2026) would provide for the establishment of 10 posts (1 D-2, 2 P-4, 4 P-3, 2 P-2 and 1 General Service (Principal level)) and the conversion of 6 posts (1 Under-Secretary-General, 1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-2/1 and 1 General Service (Other level)) from the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology that are funded from extrabudgetary resources to regular budget funding. The estimate of \$2,302,900 includes the application of a 50 per cent vacancy factor for the new posts (*ibid.*, paras. 41–50 and annex IV). The new office would be organized as follows:

- (a) Office of the Under-Secretary-General (in New York):
  - (i) 1 Head of Office/Under-Secretary-General (conversion);
  - (ii) 1 Director (D-2) (establishment);
  - (iii) 1 Administrative Officer (P-3) (establishment);
  - (iv) 1 Assistant Programme Management Officer (P-1) (conversion);
  - (v) 1 Administrative Assistant (General Service (Principal level)) (establishment);
  - (vi) 1 Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) (conversion);
- (b) United Nations System Coordination Unit (in Geneva):
  - (i) 1 Team Lead (P-4) (conversion);
  - (ii) 1 Coordination Officer (P-3) (establishment);
  - (iii) 1 Associate Coordination Officer (P-2) (establishment);
- (c) Policy, Research and Support Section (mostly in New York):
  - (i) 1 Chief of Section (P-5) (conversion);
  - (ii) 1 Programme Officer, Partnerships (P-4) (establishment in Geneva);
  - (iii) 1 Programme Officer, Policy Research (P-4) (establishment);
  - (iv) 1 Programme Officer, Policy Support, (P-3) (establishment);
  - (v) 1 Programme Officer, Policy Research (P-3) (establishment);
  - (vi) 1 Associate Programme Officer, Partnerships (P-2) (conversion);
  - (vii) 1 Associate Reporting Officer (P-2) (establishment);

58. With regard to the location of the proposed posts, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the CEB secretariat, which is based in New York, also has a dedicated coordination unit based in Geneva. According to the information provided, a strengthened presence in Geneva is vital for the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies to engage the many United Nations agencies active in the technology governance space, such as ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNESCO, WHO, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, WIPO and WTO, to ensure United Nations system coherence. The Committee was also informed that, during the consultations with Member States, delegations broadly recognized the importance of the new office

of having a presence in New York and Geneva, while some delegations also stressed that some sort of representation or presence in the global South would be important for developing countries.

59. **The Advisory Committee notes the significant increase in the proposed resources for the Policy, Research and Support Section and considers that additional justification and explanation are needed to clarify the related activities, including the support to Member States. Taking also into account the need to clearly and comprehensively map out and delineate the coordinating functions of the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, as indicated in paragraph 48 above, and the need for a regional presence within the regional economic commissions, the Committee recommends a phased approach to the development of the new office and that, following an initial phase, its resource requirements, as well as the structure of the office, including its regional presence, be reassessed and presented for the consideration of the General Assembly in the context of the next programme budget submission.**

60. **In view of the above, the Advisory Committee considers that the proposed conversion of posts will suffice for the initial operations of the new office. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of 10 new posts: one Director (D-2); one Programme Officer, Partnerships (P-4); one Programme Officer, Policy Research (P-4); one Administrative Officer (P-3); one Coordination Officer (P-3); one Programme Officer, Policy Support (P-3); one Programme Officer, Policy Research (P-3); one Associate Coordination Officer (P-2); one Associate Reporting Officer (P-2); and one Administrative Assistant (General Service (Principal level)), at this stage.**

61. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 60 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the post resources under section 1. The relevant non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

62. Pursuant to paragraph 72 of the Global Digital Compact, non-post resources amounting to \$388,800 for 2025 (\$297,200 for 2026) are proposed, as follows (ibid., para. 51):

(a) Other staff costs: \$35,000 for the replacement of staff on parental or sick leave and for the recruitment of temporary staff to support peak workload periods;

(b) Hospitality: \$5,000 for official functions such as special events and other outreach activities in support of building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with Member States, the technology industry, civil society and other stakeholders;

(c) Consultants: \$110,600 to conduct research and undertake other specialized projects related to the strengthening of United Nations system coordination and multi-stakeholder partnerships related to digital and emerging technologies. **The Advisory Committee encourages the new office to use internal resources as much as possible, in particular in relation to its core functions, and therefore recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$11,100) to the proposed resources for consultants;**

(d) Travel of staff: \$139,000 to engage with partners within and outside the United Nations system and to participate in forums and processes such as the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Internet Governance Forum. **The Advisory Committee encourages the new office to intensify the use of virtual means of communications with a view to minimizing in-person travel and recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$13,900) to the proposed resources for travel of staff;**

(e) Contractual services: \$63,600 for data-processing services and website development costs;

(f) General operating expenses: \$6,400 for communication costs, including the cost of telephone, Internet and copier services;

(g) Supplies and materials: \$4,400;

(h) Furniture and equipment: \$24,800 for the acquisition of computers for newly established posts.

**63. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 60 and 62 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 1.**

## **B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (section 12)**

64. Pursuant to paragraph 48 of the Global Digital Compact, non-post resources in the amount of \$396,700 are proposed for 2025 (\$396,700 for 2026) under section 12, Trade and development, as follows (ibid., para. 54):

(a) Other staff costs: \$219,800 for the establishment of one general temporary assistance-funded position of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) based in Geneva for two years (2025 and 2026) to provide specialized substantive support to the working group on data governance in conducting research covering the existing gaps in global data governance, and support preparation of the working group's report to be presented to the General Assembly by no later than the eighty-first session. **Considering that the report of the working group on data governance is due by 2027, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed position of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) be established for one year only, in 2026;**

(b) Experts: \$156,900 for travel of 48 working group members from 24 developing countries for one session a year. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the resource requirements provide for the travel of two representatives from each of the 24 members of the working group from developing countries to attend the session of the working group, thus amounting to 48 trips in total;

(c) General operating expenses: \$20,000 for various costs related to the meetings of the working group, including interpretation and rent for conference facilities.

**65. Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 64 (a) above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed non-post resources under section 12.**

## **C. Department of Operational Support (section 29B)**

66. Pursuant to paragraph 72 of the Global Digital Compact, an amount of \$169,900 is proposed for 2025 (\$91,300 for 2026) under section 29B, Department of Operational Support (ibid., para. 55), as follows:

(a) Posts: \$54,800 for the establishment of one post of Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) in the Executive Office of the Department of Operational Support, to provide essential administrative support to the new Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies. **Considering its recommendation against the proposed establishment of 10 posts in the new office (see para. 60 above), the Advisory Committee considers that any additional human resources related to the establishment of the new office should be absorbed within existing resources. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of**

**one post of Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level)) under section 29B. Related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly;**

(b) General operating expenses: \$115,100 for office space alterations in respect of seven new posts (6 Professional and higher and 1 General Service) proposed in New York under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination. **In view of its recommendation against the establishment of new posts (see para. 60 above), the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$115,100 to the proposed resources for general operating expenses.**

#### **D. Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (section 2)**

67. Pursuant to paragraph 63 of the Global Digital Compact, non-post resources in the amount of \$24,500 are proposed for 2025 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, to cover other staff costs related to the issuance of one document with a word count of 8,500 words in all six official languages of the United Nations (see [A/79/583](#), paras. 34 and 52). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management should be able to absorb the requirements related to the request within existing resources, and therefore recommends a reduction of \$24,500 to the proposed resources for other staff costs under section 2.**

#### **E. Administration, Geneva (section 29E)**

68. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 72 of the Global Digital Compact, non-post resources in the amount of \$7,600 for 2025 (\$7,600 for 2026) are proposed as general operating expenses for the United Nations Office at Geneva to cover utilities and maintenance costs associated with the four Geneva-based posts in the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies under section 29E. **Considering its recommendation against the establishment of three of the proposed posts in Geneva (see para. 60 above), the Advisory Committee is of the view that the utilities and maintenance costs associated with a single post in Geneva could be absorbed within existing resources, and therefore recommends a reduction of \$7,600 to the proposed non-post resources under section 29E.**

### **IV. Other matters**

#### *Implementation timeline*

69. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the implementation of resolution [79/1](#) is ongoing and not limited to 2025 and 2026. Some activities are linked to specific timelines outlined in the Pact for the Future, while others are being included in the implementation plan. The specific timelines outlined in the Pact and its annexes include:

(a) Overarching review of processes: a high-level review of the Global Digital Compact in 2027, a high-level plenary meeting in 2028 on the Declaration on Future Generations and a meeting of Heads of State and Government at the beginning of the eighty-third session of the General Assembly, in 2028, for a comprehensive review of the Pact (see also [A/79/583](#), paras. 61–64);

(b) Further work at intergovernmental processes, for example, the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in 2025; the Fourth International Conference on

Financing for Development, to be held in 2025; the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in 2025; the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to be held in 2025; the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held in 2027; and the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2025;

(c) Furthermore, the Secretary-General has established an internal steering committee, comprising 34 entities, including several United Nations system organizations, to oversee the implementation of the Pact. In addition, under the steering committee, six working groups would drive forward specific actions within their areas of responsibility, namely the contributions of the Pact to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, peace and security, reform of the international financial architecture, digital technologies, United Nations governance reform and youth.

#### *Human rights mechanisms*

70. In paragraph 74 (a) of the Pact for the Future, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assess the need for adequate, predictable, increased and sustainable financing of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including OHCHR. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the preparation and the presentation of this assessment is a prerequisite for any potential additional resource request for OHCHR. The Secretariat informed the Assembly of the possibility of additional requirements for OHCHR in 2026 and in the subsequent year or years in paragraph 4 of the oral statement presented by the Secretary-General.