TO: Mr. Goro Onojima  
A: Secretary of the Human Rights Council

7 October 2021

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

FROM: Johannes Huisman, Director
DE: Programme Planning and Budget Division, OPPBA

SUBJECT: Oral Statement of programme budget implications arising from
draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.27 of the Human Rights Council

I would be grateful if the text of the attached oral statement could be read and distributed prior to adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.27, entitled "Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change".

cc: Mr. Ramanathan
Mr. Pearce
Ms. Veaudour
Ms. Alirzaeva
ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT RESOLUTION A/HRC/48/L.27 ENTITLED “MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”

1. This statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.27, the Human Rights Council would:

   (a) Decide to appoint, for a period of three years, a “Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change”, with the following mandate:

   i. To study and identify how the adverse impacts of climate change, including sudden and slow onset disasters, affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, and to make recommendations on how to address and prevent these adverse impacts, particularly in ways of how to strengthen the integration of human rights concerns in policy making, legislation, and plans addressing climate change;

   ii. Identify existing challenges, including financial challenges, in States’ efforts to promote and protect human rights while addressing the adverse effects of climate change, and to make recommendations regarding respect for and promotion of human rights, including in the context of the design and implementation of mitigation and adaptation policies, practices, investments and other projects;

   iii. To synthesize knowledge, including indigenous and local traditional knowledge, and identify good practices, strategies and policies that address how the human rights are integrated in climate change policies, and how these efforts contribute to the promotion and protection of all human rights and poverty alleviation;

   iv. To promote and exchange views on lessons learned and best practices related to the adoption of human rights-based, gender-responsive, age-sensitive, disability-inclusive and risk-informed approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, with a view to contribute to the achievements of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, that could help the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular of Goals 13 and 14, to address the economic, cultural, environmental, and social challenges that climate change poses for the full enjoyment of human rights for all, and particularly to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of people in
vulnerable situations, to respond to the adverse impact of climate change;
v. to raise awareness on the human rights impacted by climate change, especially of persons living in developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change, such as Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Landlocked Developing States, and encourage increased global cooperation in this regard;
vi. to seek views and contributions from States and other relevant stakeholders, including international organizations, United Nations institutions, agencies, programmes and funds, regional economic commissions, international and regional financial institutions, national human rights mechanisms, civil society, children and youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, women’s rights organisations, organisations of persons with disabilities, peasants’ organizations, and other people working in rural areas, academia, scientific institutions and non-governmental organizations, in the discharge of the mandate, and to develop a regular dialogue and consultation on measures at the domestic and international levels on effective and sustainable climate action that respects, promotes and protects human rights;
vii. to facilitate and contribute to the exchange of technical assistance, capacity-building and international cooperation in support of national efforts, actions and measures to address the adverse impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, civil society, the technical and academic communities, the private sector and all relevant stakeholders, including by using new and emerging digital technologies;
viii. to work in close coordination while avoiding duplication, with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, other special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and other relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, including those related to climate change and environment;
ix. to conduct country visits and to respond promptly to invitations from States;
x. to participate in and contribute a human rights perspective to relevant international conferences and events with the aim of promoting a systematic and coherent approach on issues pertaining to the mandate;
xi. to integrate a gender-responsive, age-sensitive, disability inclusive, and social inclusion perspective throughout the work of the mandate;
xii. to work closely with States and relevant stakeholders, including business enterprises, both transnational and others, to adopt a human rights perspective in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to mitigate potential adverse impacts of their activities, including investment projects, on human rights in the context of climate change;

xiii. to closely coordinate with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and to consider every possibility to coordinate his or her work with these mandates in the most effective way, including through joint undertakings;

xiv. to report annually to the Human Rights Council, starting from its fiftieth session, and to the General Assembly;

(b) Request the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the human, technical and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate.

3. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, the following activities and resources would be required:

(a) **Staffing to support the Special Rapporteur: one post and general temporary assistance for 6 months per annum at P-3 level** to assist the mandate holder in terms of substance by, inter alia: providing inputs for the preparations of thematic studies/reports; providing substantive assistance in the development of questionnaires for data collection with a view to gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from and with all relevant sources, including States, their representative organizations and any other parties. The staff will also assist the special rapporteur by ensuring that the expertise developed by the Office feeds into the work of the mandate and ensuring that the work, findings and recommendations of mandate holder informs the work of other units of OHCHR; strengthening partnerships with international and regional bodies to enhance the impact of the work of special procedures; strengthening cooperation with the treaty bodies; acting as the resource person to raise awareness of the work, findings and recommendations of the mandate; devoting increased attention including through regular contacts with relevant partners, to follow-up
activities to the mandate holder’s findings; providing input upon request, into inter-governmental meetings; answering queries from partners and discussing relevant issues with mandate holders for action/ follow-up; accompanying the mandate holder on missions; and drafting communications;

(b) **General temporary assistance at the General Service (Other Level) for six (6) months per annum**, to assist by preparing and sending internal notes, memoranda, facsimiles, drafting correspondence; formatting correspondence, reports and documents; assisting in making arrangements for missions, meetings and consultations; searching and assembling background materials and documentation for missions and meetings; creating and maintaining a filing and reference system for the mandate; arranging appointments and answering queries;

(c) **Expert consultancy at C level for 6 (six) months per year**, to assist the mandate-holder in the preparation of analysis and assessment of the implementation of national, regional and international standards and existing instruments relevant to the climate change focusing specifically on OP2 researching specifically on mitigation and adaptation policies, practices, investments and other projects; and

(d) **Annual travel of the Special Rapporteur**: three trips to Geneva of five working days each (to report to the Council, to hold an annual consultation with States, OHCHR and relevant stakeholders and to attend the annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Council); one trip of five working days to New York to report to the General Assembly; three trips of three working days each to attend or participate in relevant meetings or conferences like UNFCCC, UN Conference on Climate Change (COP), the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP) and meetings with the other mandates mentioned in OP2 sub-para (m); and two country visits of 10 working days each;

(e) **Travel of staff** to accompany the mandate holder during the two country visits per year of 10 working days;

(f) **Local transportation, security, communications** and other miscellaneous expenses during field missions; and

(g) **Conference services** for the translation of annual reports and government replies to communications, and interpretation during field missions.

4. The activities referred to above relate to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; of the programme budget for the years 2022 and onwards.
5. The adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to total requirements of $2,038,500 as follows:

(United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total additional requirements</th>
<th>Additional annual requirements for 2022</th>
<th>To be included in the 2023 budget</th>
<th>To be included in the 2024 budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation</td>
<td>209 700</td>
<td>69 900</td>
<td>69 900</td>
<td>69 900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-session documentation</td>
<td>437 100</td>
<td>145 700</td>
<td>145 700</td>
<td>145 700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, section 2</strong></td>
<td>646 800</td>
<td>215 600</td>
<td>215 600</td>
<td>215 600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Section 24, Human rights</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Post at P-3 level</td>
<td>433 500</td>
<td>94 100</td>
<td>169 700</td>
<td>169 700</td>
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<tr>
<td>General temporary assistance: 1 P-3 and 1 GTA GS(OL) for 6 months</td>
<td>510 300</td>
<td>170 100</td>
<td>170 100</td>
<td>170 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Expert Consultancy at C level for 6 months</td>
<td>160 200</td>
<td>53 400</td>
<td>53 400</td>
<td>53 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual travel of the Special Rapporteur (3 travels to Geneva and 1 travel to New York for 5 days each, 2 missions for 10 days each, 3 travels to attend relevant meetings for 3 days each)</td>
<td>205 200</td>
<td>68 400</td>
<td>68 400</td>
<td>68 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel of staff for the country missions</td>
<td>34 500</td>
<td>11 500</td>
<td>11 500</td>
<td>11 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>General operating expenses for the field missions</td>
<td>48 000</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>16 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, section 24</strong></td>
<td>1 391 700</td>
<td>413 500</td>
<td>489 100</td>
<td>489 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2 038 500</td>
<td>629 100</td>
<td>704 700</td>
<td>704 700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. The related provisions have not been included under the proposed programme budget for the year 2022. Accordingly, should the Council adopt draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.27, the related additional requirements of $629,100 would arise, including $215,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $413,500 under section 24, Human rights of the programme budget for 2022.

7. Requirements of $704,700 would be included in the proposed programme budget for 2023 and 2024 including $215,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $489,100 under section 24, Human rights.

8. These requirements, in accordance with established procedures, would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, at its 76th session, in the context of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council during 2021.
9. With regard to operative paragraph 5, the attention of the Human Rights Council is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248B of 21 December 1990, and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 75/252 of 31 December 2020, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.