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

30/3/2022

THROUGH:

S/C DE:

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


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/49/L.2, entitled “Freedom of religion or belief”.

cc: Mr. Ramanathan
Mr. Fofana
Ms. Alirzaeva
Ms. Veaudour
ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT RESOLUTION A/HRC/49/L.2 ENTITLED “FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF”.

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 15, 17 and 18 of draft resolution A/HRC/49/L.2, the Human Rights Council would:

   (a) Decide to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief for a further period of three years, and invite the Special Rapporteur to discharge the mandate in accordance with paragraph 18 of Human Rights Council resolution 6/37 of 14 December 2007 (para15);

   (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 assistance necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate;

   (c) Request the Special Rapporteur to report annually to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work. (para 18)

3. In order to implement the mandate contained in paragraphs 15, 17 and 18 of the draft resolution, the following activities and resources would be required. Owing to the perennial nature of the mandate, the activities and resources are presented on an annual basis, and would be applicable to 2022 through 2025:

   (a) 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; and two country visits of 10 working days each;

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

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

   (d) 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, and section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the years 2022–2025.

5. The adoption of draft resolution A/HRC/48/L.2 would give rise to total annual requirements of $297,100, and a total of $891,300 during the three-year mandate period, as follows:

(United States dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Total for the mandate period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation</td>
<td>74 100</td>
<td>222 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>143 200</td>
<td>429 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal, section 2</td>
<td>217 300</td>
<td>651 900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 24, Human Rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel of Representatives</td>
<td>51 900</td>
<td>155 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel of staff</td>
<td>11 900</td>
<td>35 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Operating Expenditures</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>48 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal, section 24</td>
<td>79 800</td>
<td>239 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>297 100</td>
<td>891 300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. As reflected in the table above, annual requirements would arise as follows:

a $297 100 for 2022, which have already been included in the approved programme budget for 2022 owing to the perennial nature of the mandate;

b $297 100 for 2023, which would be included in the proposed programme budget for 2023, to be considered by the General Assembly, at its 77th session

c 297 100 for 2024 and 2025 which would continue to be included in respective proposed programme budgets.

7. With regard to operative paragraph 17, 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 76/245 of 24 December 2021, 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.