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REFERENCE: AC/1949

ACTION Mr. Takasu (email)

COPY DSG / C&C
Ms. Bartrolas (email)

Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions

7 June 2016

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the letter of the Controller dated 11 April 2016, in which, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/250, the concurrence of the Advisory Committee is sought to enter into commitments in the biennium 2016-2017 to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising during the biennium, to finance Human Rights Council resolution 31/18 entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea". By its resolution, the Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to designate for a period of six months, a maximum of two existing independent experts in support of the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to focus on issues of accountability for human rights violations in the country, in particular where such violations amount to crimes against humanity as found by the Commission of Inquiry.

The letter states that the Special Rapporteur and two existing independent experts will be supported by one P-4 Legal Adviser, one P-4 Human Rights Officer, and one Administrative Assistant (GS-OL), for a period of six months. The Controller indicates that the total requirements are estimated at $404,400 for the biennium 2016-2017, comprising $45,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and Conference Management, and $359,200 under section 24, Human Rights. Of these total requirements, it is stated that the amount of $359,200 under section 24 pertains to 2016 and requires urgent attention, while the remaining requirements will be included in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised

The Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

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estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council during 2016. The Controller states that it is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 24 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified to finance these activities, and that therefore additional resources are being sought.

Annex II of the Controller's letter provides information on the staffing requested. With respect to the Administrative Assistant (GS-OL), it is stated that the incumbent would provide administrative and logistical support to the experts. As Human Rights Council resolution 31/18 mandates the designation of existing independent experts, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is existing capacity already providing administrative support to the two existing experts. The Committee is therefore not convinced that additional requirements for an Administrative Assistant (GS-OL) position are justified.

Regarding the resources requested for travel, paragraph 3(a) of Annex II indicates that under the existing mandate of the Special Rapporteur, planned annual travel includes three trips to Geneva of five working days each; one trip of five working days to New York; one trip of three working days for meetings or conferences; and two country visits of ten working days each. With respect to the new mandate, Annex IV(b) includes resources for the proposed travel of three experts, including the Special Rapporteur, to New York for five working days, in the amount to $4,000 each for air fare and $539 per person per day for DSA. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 18(d) of Annex III that the visit in New York will take place in December 2016 and will coincide with the 71st session of the General Assembly. In the light of the purposes of the two trips to New York, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the trips could be consolidated. The Committee also notes that Annex IV(b) includes the proposed travel of three experts, including the Special Rapporteur, to The Hague. Given the existing travel resources for the Special Rapporteur, the Committee is not convinced of the necessity of additional resources for the Special Rapporteur's visit to The Hague. Given its views on proposed travel, the Committee expects that related requirements under general operating expenses for local transportation, miscellaneous services and communications would also reflect corresponding reductions.

The Advisory Committee requested information on actual expenditure by object class, but was informed that as the mandate was new, there were no expenditures to report. While noting the differences between various mandated mechanisms, the Committee reiterates its view that the presentation of proposals for

additional requirements for the implementation of new mandates should include a clear analysis of actual expenditure in respect of similar activities and the current status of expenditure under the affected budget sections, and expects that such detailed supplementary information will be provided in respect of all revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications (see A/68/7/Add.15, para. 10).

Taking into account its observations above on proposed staffing and travel, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/250, the Advisory Committee authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $305,300, representing a 15 per cent reduction of the proposed requirements for 2016. The Committee intends to review the resources required for the two existing independent experts in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates.

Yours sincerely,

Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu
Chairman

To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: AC Memos HRC Syria, South Sudan and DPRK

From: SGCentral/NY/UNO
To: Xiomara Fiallo/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Date: 07/06/2016 10:40 AM
Subject: Fw: AC Memos HRC Syria, South Sudan and DPRK
Sent by: Margaret King

XF - please note there are **3 different memos** to be logged separately.

MK
----- Forwarded by Margaret King/NY/UNO on 07/06/2016 10:39 AM -----

From: Beana Cruz/NY/UNO
To: SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Cc: Shari Klugman/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Date: 07/06/2016 10:34 AM
Subject: AC Memos HRC Syria, South Sudan and DPRK

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, please find attached an AC memo for the attention of the Secretary-General.

AC-1949 DPRK HRC commiment authority.pdfAC-1950 Syria HRC commiment authority.pdf

AC-1951 South Sudan HRC commiment authority.pdf

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions.

With kind regards,

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