

United Nations  Nations Unies
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

TO: Ms. Hui Lu
A: Secretary of the Human Rights Council

26/3/2026

REFERENCE:

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

FROM: Mr. Christophe Monier, Director
DE: Programme Planning and Budget Division, OPPFB

Monier

SUBJECT: **Oral Statement of programme budget implications arising from draft**
OBJET: **resolution A/HRC/61/L.25 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/61/L.25, entitled "Supporting human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic".

CC:

Mr. Ramanathan
Ms. Al-Chikh
Ms. Kruglikova
Ms. Alirzaeva
Ms. Taylor
Ms. Veaudour

ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFT
RESOLUTION A/HRC/61/L.25 ENTITLED "Supporting human rights in the
Syrian Arab Republic".

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 paragraph 10 of draft resolution **A/HRC/61/L.25**, the Human Rights Council would:

(a) Decide in order to support further progress on human rights, to extend the mandate of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic for a period of one year, and in this context request the Commission to do the following within its existing capacity:

a) To work in a manner that complements national efforts and is aimed at helping Syria ensure that it meets its international human rights obligations, while fully maintaining the Commission's independence, and the protection of victims and witnesses;

b) To provide methodological advice based on its practical experience and expertise, to support national investigations into allegations of human rights violations and abuses upon the request of the Syrian Government and in coordination with relevant UN entities;

c) To provide advice based on its expertise to Syrian national entities, including the National Commission for Transitional Justice, in areas related to ensuring justice and accountability, preventing violations, and improving the human rights situation, in coordination with relevant UN entities;

d) To present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its sixty third session, and a report of the period January 2026 - January 2027 with a focus on an assessment of the human rights situation in the country and priorities for technical assistance and capacity building to support domestic efforts in the field of human rights, accountability and transitional justice, which will further advance recommendations by the Commission at the 64th session, to be presented at a joint interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights under agenda item 2; (OP. 10);

3. In order to implement the mandate contained in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, **from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027**, the following activities and resources would be required in 2026 and 2027:

4. **Under Section 24, Human Rights:**(a) **General Temporary Assistance:**

Continuation of 26 positions based in Geneva to support the mandate of the independent experts/commissioners, as follows:

Count	Level	Function	Estimated duration
1	P-5	Head of the Secretariat/Coordinator	12 months
1	P-4	Legal Advisor	12 months
1	P-4	Analyst	12 months
1	P-4	Chief of Investigations	12 months
1	P-4	Military Advisor	12 months
1	P-4	Investigator/Advisor on sexual violence	12 months
11	P-3	Investigators	Variable
1	P-3	Political Advisor	12 months
1	P-3	Reporting Officer	12 months
1	P-3	Analyst	12 months
1	P-3	Interpreter	12 months
1	P-3	Legal Officer	3 months
1	P-3	Media Officer	3 months
1	P-3	Information Evidence Officer	3 months
1	P-2	Associate Analyst	3 months
1	GS-OL	Programme Assistants	12 months
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(b) **Consultants:**

- International consultancy to supplement staff expertise with specialized knowledge, including forensic pathology, military ballistics, chemistry, minority rights, victim protection, conflict-related economic impacts, visualization, translation (for less common languages), and information technology;

(c) **Travel of Representatives:**

- Travel to **Geneva** to provide oral updates, participate in interactive dialogues, prepare mandated reports, and conduct consultations with Member States; travel to **New York** to brief the Security Council and hold regular consultations with Member States and United Nations agencies; field missions **to Syria** and to neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees to support mandate implementation; and visits to **other Member States**, upon

invitation, for consultations and briefings on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic;

(d) Travel of staff:

- Travel to **New York** by designated staff members to accompany the Commissioners for briefings to the Security Council and for consultations with Member States and United Nations agencies; investigative missions **to Syria** and to countries **in the region** to conduct investigations and accompany the Commissioners; investigative travel to refugee-hosting **countries in Europe** to interview refugees, witnesses, human rights defenders and other information sources, while accompanying the Commissioners; and travel by staff members **to Member States** in connection with requests for legal cooperation;

(e) Contractual services:

- Satellite image/analysis and commissioning;
- Subscription to software licences;

(f) General Operating Expenses

- Local transportation (rental of vehicles);
- Communication costs;
- Freight and related costs;
- Periodic training of staff;
- Security Services;
- Shipment costs for documentary evidence;
- Miscellaneous general operating expenses;

(g) Supplies and Materials:

- Office expendable supplies;

(h) Furniture and equipment:

- Acquisition of security and safety equipment;
- Miscellaneous furniture and equipment;

(i) Grants and Contributions:

- Travel of victims and witnesses;

5. Conference Services under: **Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, for:**

- (a) Interpretation services for meetings;
 (b) Reduction to Documentation services;

6. 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 2026 and 2027.

7. The adoption of the draft resolution **A/HRC/61/L.25** would give rise to total requirements as follows:

(United States dollars)

<i>Budget section / Object of expenditure</i>	<i>Included in the Budget (Annually)</i>	<i>Reduced requirements for 2026 (non-recurrent)</i>	<i>Total recurrent requirements</i>	<i>Total non-recurrent requirements</i>
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management				
Simultaneous interpretation	649 000	-	649 000	-
Documentation	59 400	(29 700)	59 400	(29 700)
Subtotal, Section 2	708 400	(29 700)	708 400	(29 700)
Section 24, Human rights				
Other staff costs (GTA)	4 614 900	-	4 614 900	-
Consultants	86 300	-	86 300	-
Travel of representatives	257 800	-	257 800	-
Travel of staff	551 100	-	551 100	-
Contractual services	228 400	-	228 400	-
General Operating Expenses	134 400	-	134 400	-
Supplies and materials	20 100	-	20 100	-
Furniture and equipment	11 600	-	11 600	-
Grants and contributions	11 600	-	11 600	-
Subtotal, Section 24	5 916 200	-	5 916 200	-
Total	6 624 600	(29 700)	6 624 600	(29 700)

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

- a. Annual requirements of \$6,624,600, which have already been included in the programme budget for 2026 and the proposed programme budget for 2027, owing to the perennial nature of the mandate.
- b. Reduced non-recurrent requirements of \$29,700 for 2026. These requirements, in accordance with established procedures, would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, at its 81st 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 2026.