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Items 139 and 140 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Part IV

International cooperation for development

Section 13

International Trade Centre

Subprogramme 6 of programme 10

Trade and development

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* A/79/50.

** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 77/267, the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information (part II) is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the Assembly.

*** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 77/267, the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements (part III) is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the Assembly.



A. Proposed programme plan for 2025 and programme performance in 2023

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

- 13.1 The International Trade Centre (ITC) is responsible for the business aspects of trade development, as the joint technical cooperation agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The mandate derives from the priorities established by the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on 19 March 1964 and the General Assembly on 12 December 1967 (Assembly resolution [2297 \(XXII\)](#)). Since 1 January 1968, ITC has operated under the joint auspices of GATT/WTO and the United Nations. In its resolution 1819/LV of 9 August 1973, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed the Centre's mandate as the focal point for technical assistance and cooperation activities for trade promotion within the United Nations system of assistance for developing countries.
- 13.2 In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States explicitly recognized trade as a key engine for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication, specifically through target 8.a of the Sustainable Development Goals, to increase Aid for Trade support, and targets 17.10 and 17.11 of the Goals, for an open, rules-based, transparent and fair trading system and a significant increase in exports from developing countries.
- 13.3 Against the backdrop of trade tensions and the severe negative impact on trade and development caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the General Assembly, in its resolutions [78/134](#) and [77/160](#), reiterated this position for the target beneficiaries of ITC – micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises – which make up over 90 per cent of the world's businesses, account for over two thirds of employment and form the economic backbone of every community.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 6

Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Objective

- 13.4 The objective, to which ITC contributes, is to enhance inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, through increased business capacities of those enterprises to trade and through a conducive business environment and strengthened institutional ecosystems for those enterprises.

Strategy and external factors for 2025

- 13.5 To contribute to the objective, ITC will provide advisory services, training and awareness-building to enterprises, business support institutions and government agencies in areas that are key to the international competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. In particular, ITC will:
- (a) Build enterprise-level capacities in the areas of market analysis, value addition, quality, e-commerce, marketing, access to finance and investment, climate resilience and environmental risk mitigation, including on how to sustain the resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

- (b) Provide micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises with market knowledge and new market linkage opportunities, including through initiatives such as the Switch ON and FastTrackTech digital trade initiatives and the “Alliances for Action” initiative, which connect businesses to foreign markets and develop public-private partnerships in targeted value chains, strengthening existing and opening new trade channels;
- (c) Enable business transactions and investment for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with a focus on growing local, regional, South-South and global value chains, working with women-owned businesses, youth entrepreneurs, refugees, internally displaced persons and artisan and farmer communities, including through the ITC SheTrades initiative, the Ye! (“young entrepreneurs”) community and the Refugee Empowerment through Markets Initiative;
- (d) Strengthen the governance, performance, advocacy capacities, quality and scope of services and interconnectedness of national, subnational and regional business support institutions and ecosystems, including trade and investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce, sector associations, youth and women’s business groups, cooperatives, incubators and technical and vocational training providers;
- (e) Support policymakers in leading public-private dialogues and consensus-building and decision-making processes that foster the growth and internationalization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through the promotion of the benefits of a universal, rules-based, open, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO;
- (f) Scale up its comprehensive and globally accessible trade intelligence that addresses information and knowledge gaps, including databases, such as the ITC Sustainability Map and Market Access Map, and the SME Trade Academy digital learning platform.

13.6 The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

- (a) Increased resilience of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to external shocks and their enhanced competitiveness, sustainable business practices and integration into regional and international value chains that generate business transactions, investments, sustainable jobs and higher incomes, especially for women, youth and persons in vulnerable situations;
- (b) Improved usefulness of services provided by business support institutions to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including enhanced management and operational functioning of the service providers;
- (c) Better-informed government decision makers, with options for new or improved inclusive trade-related policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks that contribute to an enabling environment for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in international trade;
- (d) Increased awareness among policymakers, business support organizations and businesses related to trade opportunities and challenges for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, market access conditions and sustainable business practices.

13.7 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2025 is based on the following planning assumptions:

- (a) Extrabudgetary resources will remain stable;
- (b) Political, economic and social conditions in programming countries will remain conducive to development interventions;
- (c) International trade and investment conditions do not deteriorate significantly compared with 2024.

- 13.8 With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, ITC will maintain and develop partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and trade and development organizations to support market access and provide supplier programmes for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in order to advance the 2030 Agenda. ITC will focus on partnerships that contribute to the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, to scalable initiatives, especially for the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, and to the implementation of WTO ministerial discussions and outcomes, including on digital trade, investment facilitation, women and trade, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and trade.
- 13.9 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ITC will continue to coordinate with United Nations entities, including through membership in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and United Nations regional and country teams. ITC will collaborate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and WTO, and with other entities and initiatives, such as the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- 13.10 ITC integrates a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. ITC will mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment throughout its workstreams, including by catalysing reforms of government procurement frameworks to mainstream a gender perspective; changing how business support organizations and financial institutions serve women; strengthening the voice of women's organizations in the African Continental Free Trade Area; and serving more marginalized groups of women.
- 13.11 In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, ITC will address disability inclusion in its operational planning process and will focus on disability inclusion aspects in its results reporting.

Evaluation activities

- 13.12 The following evaluations completed in 2023 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2025:
- (a) 2023 annual evaluation synthesis report (meta-evaluation of the 2022 evaluation findings);
 - (b) Evaluation of the work of ITC on agricultural value chains;
 - (c) Sustainability review of the ITC programme on trade development strategies;
 - (d) Final evaluation of the United Kingdom Trade Partnerships Programme.
- 13.13 The results and lessons of the evaluations referenced above have been taken into account for the proposed programme plan for 2025. For example, the 2023 annual evaluation synthesis report found that most ITC interventions have positively contributed to Member States' national development objectives, in turn informing future approaches to maximize impact. Furthermore, partnerships and capacity-building activities have helped to ensure the sustainability of results, with opportunities for improvement in the area of country-level synergies, which will have an increased focus for 2025.
- 13.14 The following evaluations are planned for 2025:
- (a) 2025 annual evaluation synthesis report (meta-evaluation of the 2024 evaluation findings);
 - (b) One corporate-level evaluation;
 - (c) One evaluation of an ITC thematic area;
 - (d) One large project evaluation.

Programme performance in 2023

Countries reached new milestones in their journey towards accession to the multilateral trading system

- 13.15 WTO provides assistance to observers negotiating accession. To complement the work of WTO, ITC has a long-standing record of providing on-request, tailored in-country trade assistance and support to the WTO accession negotiations, including through integration of the perspectives of the private sector, especially micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, for Member States to advance the multilateral trading system to facilitate economic growth and inclusive, sustainable development. In 2022, ITC and WTO jointly launched the inter-agency Coordination Group on Accessions-related Technical Assistance to facilitate information exchange. In 2023, ITC assisted policymakers in Iraq, Uzbekistan and, most recently, Timor-Leste in their accession process, including by raising the awareness of sector stakeholders about the WTO accession challenges and opportunities.
- 13.16 Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see table 13.1).

Table 13.1

Performance measure

<i>2021 (actual)</i>	<i>2022 (actual)</i>	<i>2023 (actual)</i>
Iraq and the Sudan undertook preparations for the resumption of their respective WTO accession processes	Iraq submitted WTO accession documentation, such as a memorandum on its foreign trade regime and agriculture domestic support tables	<p>Iraq drafted the initial offer on goods and services to advance the accession process</p> <p>Uzbekistan advanced the WTO accession process through two working party meetings to negotiate trade policy terms and to actively engage in bilateral market access negotiations, resulting in signed bilateral agreements on goods with several WTO members</p> <p>Timor-Leste submitted revised and translated legislation aligned with the WTO requirements</p>

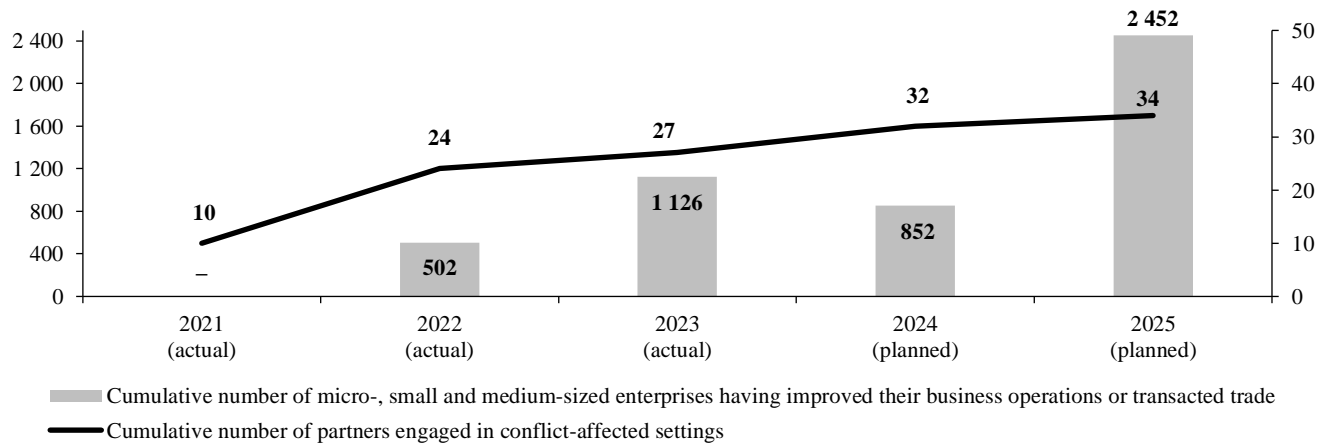
Planned results for 2025

Result 1: partnerships for enhanced trade and more resilient micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 13.17 The Centre's work contributed to 1,126 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that improved their business operations or transacted trade, and 27 partners that were engaged in hard-to-reach areas in Iraq, which exceeded the planned target of 400 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and 23 partners.
- 13.18 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 13.1).

Figure 13.I
Performance measure: number of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises that improved business or transacted trade, and partnerships for trade in conflict and post-conflict situations (cumulative)

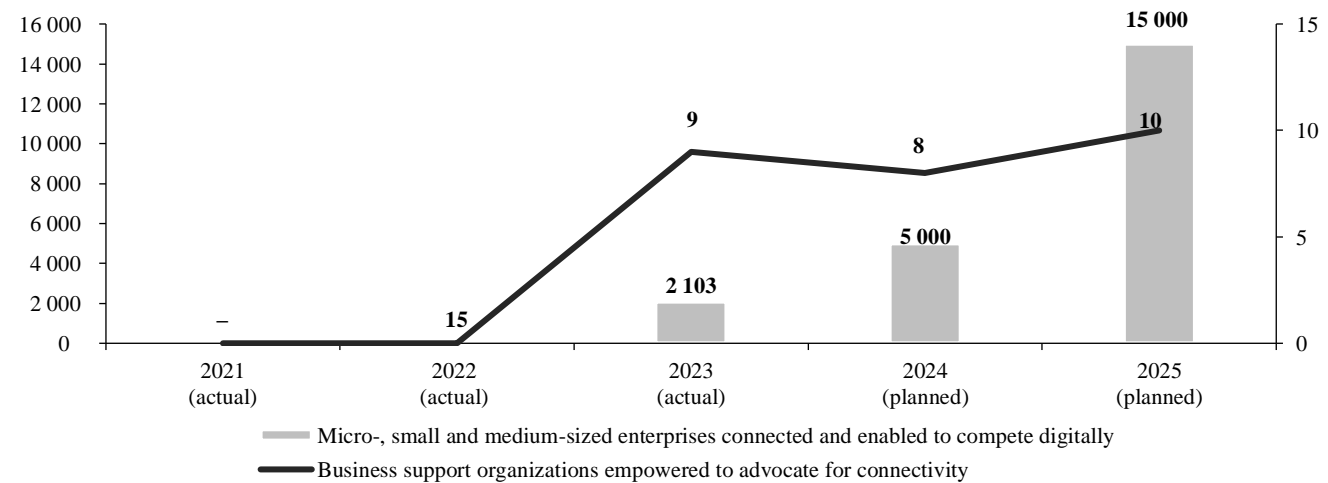


Result 2: strengthened digital trade capacity of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises

Programme performance in 2023 and target for 2025

- 13.19 The Centre’s work contributed to 2,103 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises connected and enabled to compete digitally, and 9 business support organizations empowered to advocate for connectivity, which exceeded the planned target of 300 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and 2 business support organizations.
- 13.20 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2025 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 13.II).

Figure 13.II
Performance measure: number of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises enabled to digitally compete and number of business support organizations empowered to advocate for connectivity



Result 3: strengthened services provided by local business support organizations to small businesses to capitalize on the African Continental Free Trade Area

Proposed programme plan for 2025

13.21 The African Continental Free Trade Area aims to connect 1.3 billion people across Africa with a combined gross domestic product of \$3.4 trillion. However, most African businesses are still in need of capacity development for accessing the newly available market opportunities. To meet the new demands of small businesses for trade-related information, upskilling and advisory services within the African Continental Free Trade Area, ITC developed the One Trade Africa initiative, which surveyed African business support organizations and identified a significant demand to build or expand their Free Trade Area-related offering, including on market intelligence, training and advisory services for small businesses.

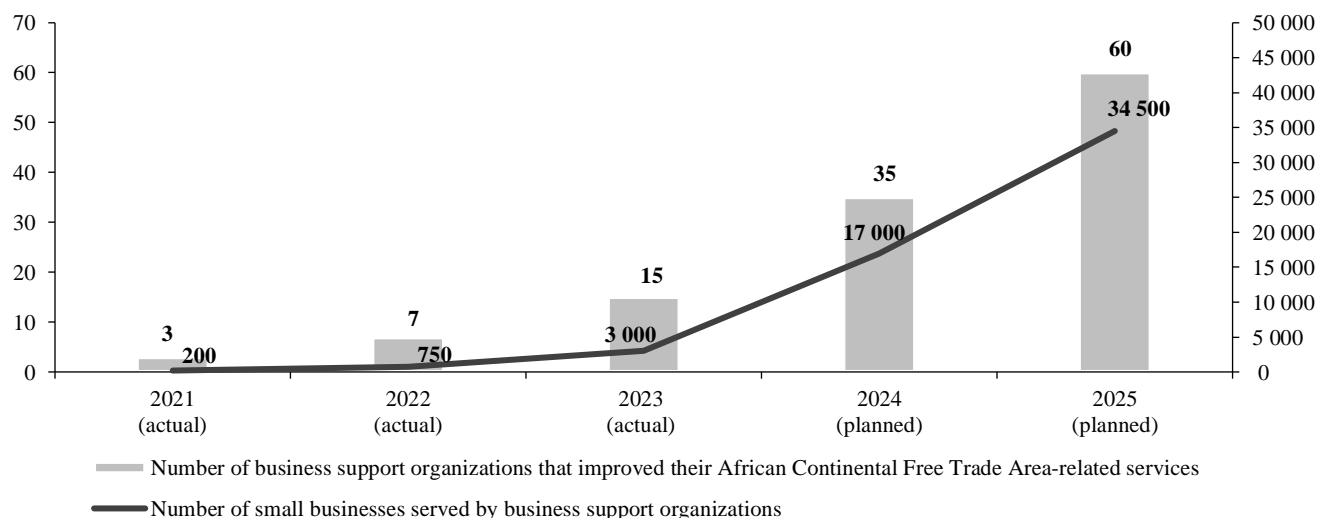
Lessons learned and planned change

13.22 The lesson for ITC was that, to reach a broader base of small businesses, it needed to strengthen the membership-based business support organizations as the key pillars of the African Continental Free Trade Area business ecosystem. In applying the lesson, ITC will help to improve the services of national and regional business support organizations through new awareness-raising activities, improved representation in policymaking, better connectedness and exchange of information with peer institutions through a new platform for business support organizations in the African Continental Free Trade Area, enhanced data dissemination through the African Trade Observatory and a new offering of Free Trade Area-focused export trainings for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

13.23 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 13.III).

Figure 13.III

Performance measure: number of business support organizations that improved their African Continental Free Trade Area-related services and number of small businesses served by those business support organizations (cumulative)



Legislative mandates

13.24 The list below, which was reviewed in the preparation of the proposed programme budget, provides all mandates entrusted to ITC.

General Assembly resolutions

2297 (XXII)	International Trade Centre	76/190; 77/151;	International trade and development
66/288	The future we want	78/134	
67/213	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled “Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development”, of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	76/198; 77/156;	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development
		78/231	
		76/202; 78/151	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
69/15	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	76/203; 77/245;	Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
		78/232	
69/137	Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024		
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	76/204; 77/164;	Disaster risk reduction
		78/152	
69/313	Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)	76/205; 78/153	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	76/207; 78/155	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
71/243; 75/233	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	76/213; 78/160	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
71/279	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day	76/217; 77/246;	Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
		78/163	
72/279	Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system	76/218; 77/179	Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)
73/195	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	76/220; 77/184;	Operational activities for development of the United Nations system
		78/166	
73/291	Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	76/221; 77/185;	South-South cooperation
		78/167	
74/228	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence	76/224	Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners
74/231; 76/215;	Development cooperation with middle-income countries	76/258	Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
78/162		77/177	Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
74/235; 77/181	Women in development	77/178	Promotion of sustainable and resilient tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection
75/202; 77/150;	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development		
78/132			
75/211; 77/160	Entrepreneurship for sustainable development	78/150	Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls for realizing all Sustainable Development Goals
75/225; 77/174	Towards a New International Economic Order		
75/231	Industrial development cooperation	78/179	Policies and programmes involving youth

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1819 (LV)	United Nations export promotion programmes	2023/11	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
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World Trade Organization ministerial declarations and decisions

WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1	Doha Ministerial Declaration	WT/MIN(15)/DEC	Nairobi Ministerial Declaration
WT/MIN(05)/DEC	Doha Work Programme: Ministerial Declaration	WT/MIN(17)/DEC	Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment
WT/MIN(11)/W/2	Elements for political guidance	WT/MIN(22)/24	Outcome document of the twelfth Ministerial Conference
WT/MIN(13)/DEC	Bali Ministerial Declaration		

Deliverables

13.25 Table 13.2 lists all deliverables of ITC.

Table 13.2
Deliverables for the period 2023–2025, by category and subcategory

<i>Category and subcategory</i>	<i>2023 planned</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	4	4	4	4
1. Reports to the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre and the Consultative Committee of the ITC trust fund	3	3	3	3
2. Annual report on the activities of ITC to the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre and the Consultative Committee of the ITC trust fund	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	8	8	8	8
Meetings of:				
3. The Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre and formal meetings of the Consultative Committee of the ITC trust fund	4	4	4	4
4. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
5. The Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
6. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
7. The WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	1	1	1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	135	153	140	145
8. On trade-related technical assistance	135	153	140	145
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	5 000	4 858	5 000	5 000
9. Training events on trade intelligence, policy and strategy	1 200	1 227	1 200	1 200
10. Training events on business support institutions and ecosystems	800	774	800	800
11. Training events on value chains and sustainability	3 000	2 857	3 000	3 000
Technical materials (number of materials)	30	30	30	30
12. <i>SME Competitiveness Outlook</i> flagship report	1	1	1	1
13. Books on trade-related subjects	4	4	4	4
14. Papers on trade-related subjects, such as inclusive and sustainable trade, trade and market intelligence, and competitiveness of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (including those that are women- or youth-led)	25	25	25	25

Category and subcategory	2023 <i>planned</i>	2023 <i>actual</i>	2024 <i>planned</i>	2025 <i>planned</i>
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C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advice to policymakers, trade support institutions and enterprises to address the international competitiveness challenges for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to facilitate public-private dialogue on improvements to the business environment and to ensure that trade supports inclusive and sustainable development; advisory services to disadvantaged groups among micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, such as women- and youth-owned enterprises, on improving their productive capacity and market access; advisory and advocacy services for policymakers and business support institutions on how to consider the needs of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and disadvantaged groups in their service offer; and advocacy that allows for the systematic inclusion of such enterprises and disadvantaged groups in policy and strategy processes.

Databases and substantive digital materials: databases and other online tools to make global trade more transparent and facilitate market access and business and policy decisions. Databases cover trade flows, tariffs and non-tariff measures, export potential, procurement opportunities, rules of origin, private standards and knowledge on sustainable trade and youth and women entrepreneurship. They include the SheTrades database for over 48,000 active women entrepreneurs, “SheTrades Outlook”, the ITC “SME Trade Academy”, the Ye! community and platform for over 40,000 young entrepreneurs, the Benchmarking for Trade platform, the African Trade Observatory, the Quality for Trade platform, ecomConnect and the suite of trade intelligence tools (Market Access Map, Trade Map, Standards Map, Investment Map, Global Trade Helpdesk, Export Potential Map, Procurement Map, Trade Strategy Map, Sustainability Map and ePing).

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: special events, including the World Export Development Forum, the Trade for Sustainable Development Forum, the world trade promotion organizations network conference and awards; Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day; the *International Trade Forum* digital magazine; newsletters and campaigns on trade-related subjects for over 18,000 recipients; and information materials and outreach, including on export strategy, trade support networks and capacities, entrepreneurship, skills and export development opportunities, world trade trends, the multilateral trading system, regional integration, technical regulations and standards for export, and trade and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: ITC website and social media accounts, engaging sustainable micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and women and youth entrepreneurs.

Library services: on-demand services for ITC clients related to trade information.

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2025

Overview

13.26 The proposed regular budget resources for 2025 are reflected in table 13.3.

Table 13.3

Overall United Nations grant to ITC: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2023 expenditure ^a	2024 approved	Changes			Total	Percentage	2025 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other			
Grants and contributions ^b	20 178.8	21 723.5	–	–	–	–	–	21 723.5
Total	20 178.8	21 723.5	–	–	–	–	–	21 723.5

^a At the time of reporting, the expenditures presented in this table and in subsequent tables are not final and may be subject to adjustments that could result in minor differences between the information contained in the present report and the financial statements to be published by 31 March 2024.

^b Represents the United Nations share of the ITC full regular budget disbursed as a grant.

- 13.27 The General Assembly, in section I of its resolution [59/276](#), endorsed the revised administrative arrangements for ITC as set out in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/59/405](#)). In conformity with those administrative arrangements, the regular budget of ITC is denominated in Swiss francs and is funded equally by the United Nations and WTO. The United Nations share of the ITC full regular budget is disbursed as a grant.
- 13.28 The grant proposed for 2025 amounts to \$21,723,500, before recosting, reflecting no change in the resource level compared with the approved appropriation for 2024. The full regular budget requirements of ITC amount to SwF 38,050,400 (before recosting), net of projected miscellaneous income of SwF 200,000. The United Nations grant remains at 50 per cent of the ITC full regular budget, or SwF 19,025,200. After applying an exchange rate of SwF 0.8758 to \$1.00, the United States dollar equivalent is \$21,723,500. The proposed level of resources provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.
- 13.29 The General Assembly, in its resolution [77/267](#), decided to lift the trial period on the annual budget cycle and requested the Secretary-General to continue with the submission of the annual programme budget for the United Nations. WTO, however, maintains its biennial budget cycle. The difference in the budget cycles of the two parent organizations has implications on the administrative arrangements relating to the ITC budget. As in previous years, the present budget proposal for 2025 is put forward under an interim arrangement agreed with the WTO secretariat. The budget proposal for 2026 and onwards will be based on the updated administrative arrangements as approved by the General Assembly; in this context, the United Nations Secretariat and the WTO secretariat conducted a joint review of the administrative arrangements, the results of which are presented for the consideration of the General Assembly in annex II.
- 13.30 The total resource requirements for 2025 for ITC, comprising its full regular budget in Swiss francs and projected extrabudgetary resources in Swiss francs, are reflected in tables 13.4 and 13.5 and figure 13.IV. For increased clarity and transparency, details of ITC post resources to be provided for by the proposed grants from the United Nations and WTO are presented in tables 13.6 and 13.7 and annex I, notwithstanding that these posts are not part of the approved or proposed staffing table of the United Nations regular budget.

Part IV International cooperation for development

Table 13.4

Evolution of financial resources by source of funding: ITC full regular budget and extrabudgetary resources

(Thousands of Swiss francs)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2023 expenditure ^a	2024 approved	Changes				2025 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total Percentage	
Programme of work							
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	36 256.2	38 050.4	–	–	–	–	38 050.4
Subtotal, 1	36 256.2	38 050.4	–	–	–	–	38 050.4

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2023 expenditure	2024 estimate	Change	Percentage	2025 estimate
Programme of work					
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	100 685.8	91 959.0	–	–	91 959.0
Subtotal, 2	100 685.8	91 959.0	–	–	91 959.0
Total	136 942.0	130 009.4	–	–	130 009.4

^a Overall level of 2023 expenditure (net of miscellaneous income) incurred in Swiss francs, of which the United Nations share amounts to SwF 18,128,100, equivalent to \$20,178,800.

Table 13.5

Evolution of financial and post resources: ITC full regular budget

(Thousands of Swiss francs/number of posts)

Component/subprogramme	2023 expenditure	2024 approved	Changes				2025 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure							
Posts	28 575.7	29 893.9	–	–	–	–	29 893.9
Non-post	7 680.5	8 156.5	–	–	–	–	8 156.5
Total	36 256.2	38 050.4	–	–	–	–	38 050.4
Post resources by category							
Professional and higher		91	–	–	–	–	91
General Service and related		69	–	–	–	–	69
Total		160	–	–	–	–	160

Table 13.6
Proposed posts and post changes for 2025: ITC full regular budget

(Number of posts)

	Number	Details
Approved for 2024	160	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 21 P-5, 29 P-4, 20 P-3, 14 P-2/1, 69 GS (OL)
Proposed for 2025	160	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 21 P-5, 29 P-4, 20 P-3, 14 P-2/1, 69 GS (OL)

Table 13.7
Proposed posts for 2025 by source of funding: ITC full regular budget and extrabudgetary resources

(Number of posts)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	Changes				Total	2025 proposed
	2024 approved	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Programme of work						
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	160	–	–	–	–	160
Subtotal, 1	160	–	–	–	–	160

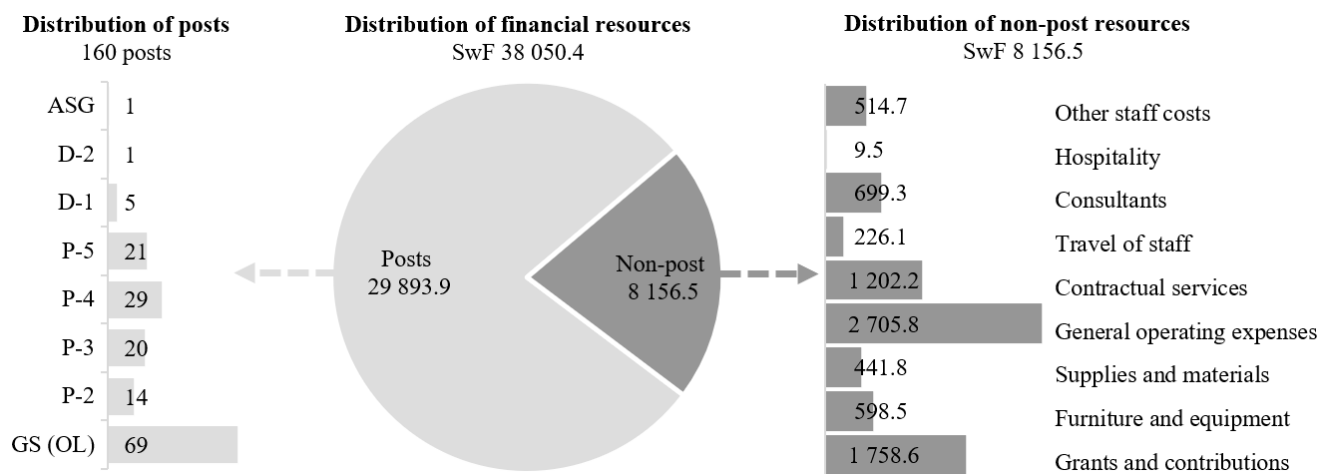
(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2024 estimate	Change	2025 estimate
Programme of work			
6. Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development	20	–	20
Subtotal, 2	20	–	20
Total (1+2)	180	–	180

Note: The following abbreviations are used in the tables and figures: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level).

Figure 13.IV
Distribution of proposed resources for 2025 (before recosting): ITC full regular budget

(Number of posts/thousands of Swiss francs)



Extrabudgetary resources

- 13.31 As reflected in table 13.4 (2), extrabudgetary resources amount to SwF 91,959,000. The extrabudgetary resources would complement regular budget resources and would be used to provide for 20 posts (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2/1 and 11 General Service (Other level)) to perform functions such as human resources management, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and information and communications technology functions, and similar activities related to the implementation of extrabudgetary projects. In addition, non-post resources, including project personnel, would be used to implement technical cooperation projects, complementing and leveraging the core expertise and global offering of ITC provided through regular budget resources, at the request of Member States. Initiatives aim to accelerate digital trade, environmentally sustainable trade and trade for women and youth and are committed to economically empowering women, youth and people in vulnerable situations, including people in poverty, refugees, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. ITC continues to negotiate with donors for the funding of large-scale integrated projects.
- 13.32 The extrabudgetary resources under the present section are subject to the oversight of ITC, in accordance with the delegation of authority by the Secretary-General, and their use is guided by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Other information

- 13.33 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 72/219, the Centre will continue to integrate environmental management practices into its operations. ITC has been taking steps to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions for a number of years, and recent initiatives include a campaign to enhance ITC staff members' understanding on sustainable alternatives to plastic.
- 13.34 Information on the timely submission of documentation and advance booking for air travel is reflected in table 13.8. All ITC personnel receive a monthly newsletter containing compliance rates and the category of non-compliance justifications, as recorded in the enterprise resource planning system, by division, and all managers receive compliance rates on a weekly basis. In view of the reduction in the rate of advance booking for air travel experienced in 2023, the senior management team of ITC commenced a detailed review of the reasons and is planning to take additional steps,

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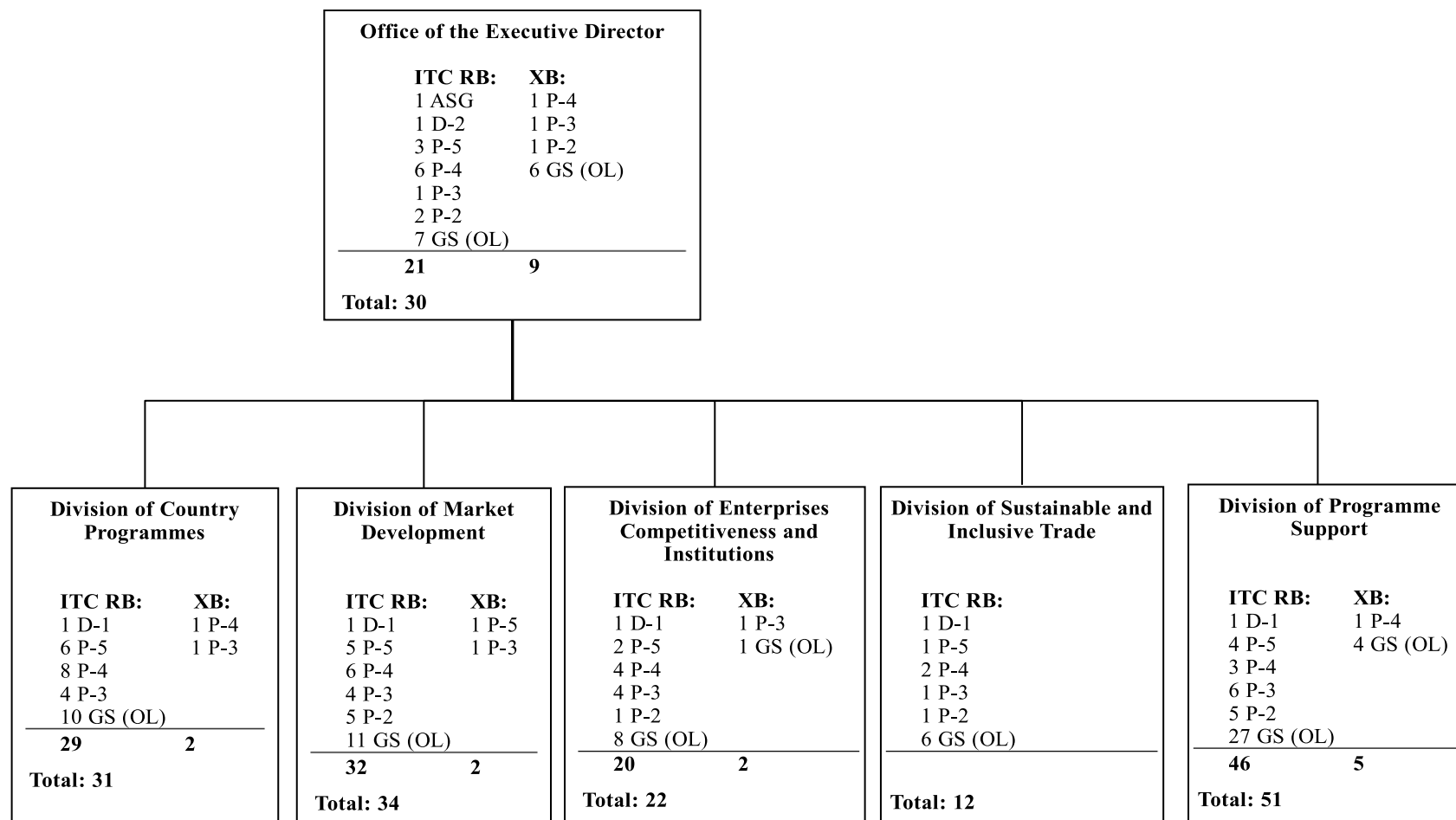
including better utilization of lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, to improve the advance booking for air travel rate.

Table 13.8
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	<i>2021 actual</i>	<i>2022 actual</i>	<i>2023 actual</i>	<i>2024 planned</i>	<i>2025 planned</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	100	100	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least two weeks before the commencement of travel	69	67	62	100	100

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2025



Note: ITC RB posts refer to ITC full regular budget posts, which are not part of the proposed United Nations regular budget staffing table. XB posts are funded through the special account for programme support costs. The total number of posts for 2025 remains unchanged compared with 2024: 160 funded from the ITC full regular budget and 20 from extrabudgetary sources.

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); ITC RB, International Trade Centre full regular budget; XB, extrabudgetary.

Annex II

Administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre

I. Introduction

1. The International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint body of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), operates, from an administrative point of view, on the basis of arrangements agreed upon in 1974 between the United Nations and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which were reviewed in 1998 and 1999. These unique arrangements have proven to be effective from a programme point of view, by helping to ensure coherence and avoidance of duplication in the activities of the three organizations, as confirmed by the review of technical cooperation activities, conducted within the framework of the reform of the United Nations (see [A/58/382](#)), and the inspection of programme management and administrative practices of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (see [A/59/229](#)).

2. However, WTO and the United Nations have different budgetary processes, and the revised administrative arrangements, which were approved in 1999, did not completely address the unique situation of ITC within the overall budget procedures of each parent organization. Although there had been a general understanding that the revised administrative arrangements would avoid duplication of processes, this did not materialize fully. Instead, the arrangements resulted in a de facto duplication of some procedures and even in the creation of additional steps. This situation was documented in the report of the Secretary-General on the experience in applying the revised administrative arrangements approved by the General Assembly for the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) in its decision 53/411 B ([A/C.5/57/14](#)). To address this situation, the administrative arrangements were updated in 2004 and the General Assembly, in section I of its resolution [59/276](#), endorsed the revised administrative arrangements for ITC as set out in the report of the Secretary-General on administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre ([A/59/405](#)).

3. Following the 2004 revision to the administrative arrangements, other changes have taken place in the budgeting processes of both the United Nations and WTO, which provide an opportunity to streamline the current procedures while at the same time meeting the exigencies of programmatic decisions on the part of States Members of the United Nations and WTO members. The changes concern, in the case of the United Nations, the move from a biennial to an annual budget cycle and the presentation of the proposed programme plan and programme performance information and the resource requirements as an integrated budget document instead of in separate reports. In the case of WTO, the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration decided in 2012 to streamline the number of budget documents produced, and decided that the ITC budget proposal would be solely prepared in the United Nations format with a cover note showing the budget in the WTO format. This approach provides the members of the Committee with detailed and timely budget information and avoids reproducing the same information in two budget documents: one in the United Nations format and another one in the WTO format. Other significant developments are the discontinuation of the biennial strategic framework and the simplification of the budget documents.

4. In the course of the review of the proposed programme budget of ITC for 2024 ([A/78/6](#) ([Sect. 13](#))), the General Assembly, in its resolution [78/252](#), endorsed the recommendation contained in paragraph IV.110 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/7](#)), in which the Advisory Committee looked forward to updated information regarding the results of a joint review of the administrative arrangements in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2025. The purpose of the present annex is to address that request and to consolidate all the changes that have occurred since the 2004 revision. The present annex, prepared in consultation with the secretariats of WTO and ITC, contains proposals designed to simplify the administrative arrangements while adapting them to recent changes in the budgetary processes of the United Nations, and aims to consolidate information on the administrative arrangements to facilitate the review by the governing bodies of both parent organizations and their application by the administrations of the three organizations concerned. The present annex is being submitted simultaneously to WTO.

II. Technical foundation for the existing administrative arrangements

5. The foundation on which the current administrative arrangements are based consists of the following:

- (a) ITC is subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;
- (b) The full regular budget of ITC is calculated in Swiss francs, and the ITC secretariat presents an annual budget to the General Assembly of the United Nations and a biennial budget to WTO. The United Nations share of the ITC full regular budget is disbursed as a grant. The proposed biennial budget to WTO will be based on twice the amount of the proposed annual budget to the General Assembly. A timeline of the review process for the full regular budget of ITC is presented in the schedule attached to the present annex;
- (c) ITC is subject to the oversight system of the United Nations, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors;
- (d) The accounts of ITC, submitted in United States dollars, are reviewed and audited by the Board of Auditors;
- (e) Reports of the United Nations oversight bodies and the financial statements of ITC, which have been certified by the Controller of the United Nations, are provided to the General Assembly and the General Council of WTO;
- (f) The regular budget of ITC is financed in equal parts by the United Nations and WTO;
- (g) Budgetary information is provided simultaneously to the governing bodies of both parent organizations;
- (h) The budget of ITC is adjusted to reflect the impact of inflation and exchange rate variations in line with the recosting methodology of the United Nations regular budget as approved by the General Assembly. Results of the recosting exercise are presented to the General Council of WTO for consideration;
- (i) The extrabudgetary resources of ITC are subject to the oversight of ITC, in accordance with the delegation of authority by the Secretary-General, and their use is guided by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and related administrative instructions.

6. The operations of ITC have been fully adapted to such conditions and operate well to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

III. Presentation of budget documents

7. In line with General Assembly resolution [77/267](#), the proposed programme budget document consists of three parts: (a) part I: the plan outline, which endorses the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization; (b) part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information; and (c) part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes. Parts I and II are submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and part III is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.

8. The ITC programme of work is reviewed annually by the Joint Advisory Group, the main intergovernmental advisory forum of ITC, which is open to members of UNCTAD and WTO. The WTO General Council and the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board review the report and recommendations of the Joint Advisory Group annually.

9. Taking into account the programmatic direction provided by the parent organizations and the Joint Advisory Group, ITC would continue to prepare and submit its proposed programme plan and programme performance information for the forthcoming budget year in the United Nations format.

10. The ITC full regular budget proposal in the United Nations format, containing the proposed programme plan and programme performance information, and the proposed resource requirements, with the information on the ITC full regular budget including post and non-post requirements, as an integrated budget document and with a cover note showing the budget in the WTO format, is submitted to the WTO General Council through the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration. This approach provides WTO with detailed and timely budget information and avoids reproducing the same information in two budget documents: one in the United Nations format and another one in the WTO format.

IV. Conclusion and proposal

11. In the light of the above, the Secretary-General proposes the following arrangements:

(a) The arrangements that the full regular budget of ITC is financed in equal parts by the United Nations and WTO, that the United Nations regulations and rules and oversight mechanisms apply to ITC, that the ITC budget is calculated in Swiss francs, that both parent organizations are provided with the same budgetary information at the same time, and that oversight and financial reports are provided to WTO, are reconfirmed;

(b) The ITC proposed programme plan and programme performance information, and the proposed resource requirements, with the information on the ITC full regular budget including post and non-post requirements, as an integrated budget document, continue to be submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly, as follows:

(i) The part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information continue to be submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

(ii) The part consisting of the proposed resource requirements, with the information on the ITC full regular budget including post and non-post requirements, continue to be submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(c) The ITC full regular budget proposal in the United Nations format, containing the proposed programme plan and programme performance information, and the proposed resource requirements, with the information on the ITC full regular budget including post and non-post requirements, as an integrated budget document and with a cover note showing the budget in the WTO format, is submitted to the WTO General Council through the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration;

(d) The ITC full regular biennial budget proposal for the WTO biennium continues to be based on twice the annual amount proposed to the General Assembly of the United Nations, and updates relating to the second year of the biennium will be submitted to the WTO General Council for a midterm review of the ITC full regular biennial budget.

Schedule

Detailed timeline of the previously approved and proposed simplified arrangements for the review of the proposed programme budget of the International Trade Centre by the United Nations and the World Trade Organization

		<i>Previous timeline as approved in General Assembly resolution 59/276</i>	<i>Proposed timeline based on current arrangements</i>
Year 1 (e.g. 2023)	February		Submission of the ITC annual proposed programme plan and programme performance information to the General Assembly
	March		Submission of the ITC annual proposed programme budget to the General Assembly
	Spring	Submission of the strategic framework to the ITC Joint Advisory Group	
	April	Review by the Joint Advisory Group of the strategic framework	Review by the Joint Advisory Group of ITC activities and programme of work
	May		Review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the ITC annual proposed programme plan and programme performance information
	June	Review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the ITC strategic framework with Joint Advisory Group comments	Review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the ITC annual proposed programme budget
		Review by the WTO Committee on Trade and Development of the Joint Advisory Group report, including comments on the strategic framework	Review by the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board of the Joint Advisory Group report on ITC activities and programme of work
		Review by the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board of the Joint Advisory Group report, including comments on the strategic framework	Review by the WTO Committee on Trade and Development and the WTO General Council of the Joint Advisory Group report on ITC activities and programme of work
		Review by the WTO General Council of the Committee on Trade and Development report	
	July		Submission of the ITC proposed programme budget for the biennium to WTO

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		<i>Previous timeline as approved in General Assembly resolution 59/276</i>	<i>Proposed timeline based on current arrangements</i>
	August		Review by the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration of the ITC proposed programme budget for the biennium
	September		
	October		Review by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the ITC annual proposed programme budget
	November	Review by the General Assembly of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination	
	December		WTO General Council decision on the ITC proposed programme budget for the biennium General Assembly decision on the ITC annual proposed programme budget
Year 2 (e.g. 2024)	January		Submission of the ITC annual proposed programme plan and programme performance information to the General Assembly
	February	Submission of simplified budget document taking into account programmatic direction provided by the Joint Advisory Group, the General Assembly and the WTO General Council	Submission of the ITC annual proposed programme budget to the General Assembly
	April		Review by the Joint Advisory Group of ITC activities and programme of work
	May	Review of simplified budget document by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration takes note of United Nations simplified budget document and transmittal note from ITC	Review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the ITC annual proposed programme plan and programme performance information
	June	Review of report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by the General Assembly WTO General Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	Review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the ITC annual proposed programme budget Review by UNCTAD Trade and Development Board of Joint Advisory Group report on ITC activities and programme of work Review by the Committee on Trade and Development and the WTO General Council of the Joint Advisory Group report on ITC activities and programme of work

Part IV International cooperation for development

	<i>Previous timeline as approved in General Assembly resolution 59/276</i>	<i>Proposed timeline based on current arrangements</i>
September	Submission by ITC to the General Assembly and the WTO General Council of its proposed biennial budget for the following biennium	Midterm review of the ITC biennial budget by the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration and confirmation, including revised estimates, of second year budget for the biennium
October	Review of the ITC proposed budget by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions Review of the ITC proposed budget by the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration	Review by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly of the ITC annual proposed programme budget WTO General Council decision on the changes to the ITC proposed budget for second year of the biennium
November–December	Review of the ITC proposed budget and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions by the General Assembly and approval of the budget for the following biennium Review of recommendations of the WTO Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration by the WTO General Council for the following biennium	General Assembly decision on the ITC annual programme budget
