

Financial and budgetary matters

Questions and Answers, 24.05.2016 at 18:30

The Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) shared a proposed draft text with Parties, and invited their review and comments by 15:00, Monday 23 May 2016. One Party requested the following clarification:

Please provide the background for the upgrade of the post of Deputy Executive Secretary from D-2 to Assistant Secretary-General and the justification for the upgrade.

Response:

(a) The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 12/CP.15, decided that the position at the level of Assistant Secretary-General included in the staffing table may be upgraded to Under-Secretary-General following the independent review by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (footnote b to table 2, of which a screenshot is provided below);

(b) By the same decision, the COP decided that one of the three approved positions at the D-2 level may be upgraded to the level of Assistant Secretary-General following the independent review referred to in subparagraph (a) above (footnote c to table 2, of which a screenshot is provided below);

(c) The President of COP 15, by his letter dated 25 February 2010 to the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, communicated the recommendation of the Bureau of COP 15 that the level of the post of Executive Secretary be raised to that of Under-Secretary-General in the light of the scale and scope of its functions and responsibilities;

(d) The Secretary-General conducted a review and concluded not to upgrade the posts of Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary in 2010;

(e) In his letter to the President of COP 21 dated 5 February 2016, the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General drew upon the recommendations of the Bureau of COP 15 that the level of the post of Executive Secretary be raised to that of Under-Secretary-General. The Chef de Cabinet further informed the President of COP 21 that, in the light of that recommendation and the evolution of the UNFCCC process in the meantime, the Secretary-General had agreed, subject to the concurrence of the Bureau, to raise the level of the post of Executive Secretary to that of Under-Secretary-General;

(f) The President of COP 21 in his letter to the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General dated 12 February 2016 stated that the Bureau welcomed and endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General to raise the level of the post of Executive Secretary to that of Under-Secretary-General and to recruit the new Executive Secretary at that level;

(g) The Executive Secretary in her memorandum to the Secretary-General dated 8 March 2016 asked him to confirm his agreement to upgrade a D-2 level post to the level of Assistant Secretary-General;

(h) The Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General confirmed to the Executive Secretary on 21 March 2016 that the Secretary-General concurred with the recommendation of the Executive Secretary to upgrade a D-2 post to Assistant Secretary-General to serve as Deputy Executive-Secretary;

(i) The matter was addressed in the annotations to the provisional agenda of SBI 44 and in the Executive Secretary's statement on 17 May to the SBI on agenda item 18(a) on financial and budgetary matters, as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2016/1 (paragraph 92), as follows:

COP 15 decided that the position of Executive Secretary may be upgraded from Assistant Secretary-General to Under-Secretary-General (USG) following the independent review of the secretariat by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.¹ In February 2016, the Secretary-General proposed to the Bureau of the COP that the level of the post of Executive Secretary be raised to USG and that the new Executive Secretary be recruited at that level.² At its meeting held on 11 February 2016, the COP 21/CMP 11 Bureau welcomed and endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General. The SBI will be invited to recommend to COP 22 that it reflect this change, with a corresponding change in the level of the post of Deputy Executive Secretary, in a revised staffing table for the biennium 2016–2017, within the programme budget approved for this biennium;

(j) Additional resource requirements resulting from the upgrades of the Executive Secretary's post from the level of Assistant Secretary-General to Under-Secretary-General and of the Deputy Executive Secretary's post from the level of D-2 to Assistant Secretary-General will be covered from the existing resources under the approved core budget for 2016–2017;

(k) A screenshot from decision 12/CP.15, table 2, is provided below.

¹ Decision 12/CP.15, table 2.

² The current Executive Secretary is departing this year.

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Table 2. Secretariat-wide staffing from the core budget in the biennium 2010–2011

	2009	2010	2011
Professional category and above^a			
ASG ^b	1	1	1
D-2 ^c	3	3	3
D-1	6	5	5
P-5	12	12	12
P-4	24	28	29
P-3	32	30	29
P-2	10	12	12
Total Professional category and above	88	91	91
Total General Service category	53.5	49.5	49.5
TOTAL	141.5	140.5	140.5

^a Assistant Secretary-General (ASG); Director (D) and Professional (P).

^b This position may be upgraded to Under-Secretary-General following the independent review of the secretariat by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see document FCCC/SBI/2009/2, para. 36).

^c One position may be upgraded to ASG following the independent review noted above in footnote b.