



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017

Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Paik Ji-ah

Deputy Permanent Representative

Fifth Committee of the 67th Session of the General Assembly

Item 146: Administrative & Budgetary aspects of financing UNPKOs: Cross-cutting Issues

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I would like to first express my sincere appreciation for your active leadership and commitment as Chairman of the 5th Committee. I am confident that, under your able stewardship, this second resumed session will have a productive and satisfactory outcome.

2. I would also like to thank ASG/Controller, Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar, USG of the DFS, Ms. Ameerah Haq, Ms. Ruth de Miranda of the OHRM, and USG of the OIOS, Ms. Carman Lapointe, for introducing the related reports. My appreciation also goes to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ, for presenting a very informative report.

Mr. Chairman

3. I would like to begin by welcoming the recently adopted resolution on the Report of the Senior Advisory Group (SAG) on the Troop Reimbursement Rate (TRR). I believe that the balanced agreement contained in the resolution should serve as a foundation to further explore and find appropriate modalities on TRR. Through our continued constructive engagement, the Committee can make a sustainable reimbursement system based on empirical data. In this regard, my delegation would like to urge the Secretariat to conduct an objective and expeditious survey and analysis, in line with the recommendations contained in the report of the SAG.

4. Now, let me turn to the budget performance for 2011/12. The implementation rate slightly increased to 96.2% compared to the previous year, and the unspent balance has now decreased to 302 million dollars. The majority of the unspent balance comes from MONUSCO, UNAMID, and MINUSTAH. The factors affecting those missions' lower implementation rates are mainly delayed deployment of military contingents and a reduction of aviation activities. The recurrent, large amount that constitutes the unspent balance suggests possibilities of over-budgeting which can cause opportunity costs in the overall budget planning. As the Board of Auditors has pointed out in its report, the basic assumptions on which the budget is formulated should be more closely reviewed. In particular, we need to look into whether the delayed deployment factor and vacancy rate is properly applied, taking historical data and other foreseeable factors into due consideration.

5. With regard to the PKO budget for 2013/14, the Secretary-General has proposed a budget of 7.2 billion dollars, which is reduced by 112 million dollars compared to the current budget for 2012/13. This decrease mainly comes from the closure of UNMIT and a reduction of the military and police components of UNAMID and MINUSTAH, pursuant to Security Council resolutions. Although the Secretary-General has proposed a reduced budget, there is still a possibility that the final budget of the PKO will be at the highest level in its history after establishing the Mali mission, MINUSMA. Although this sharp budget increase may be inevitable because of mission creation, my delegation remains concerned, due to the ongoing economic difficulties of the Member States.

6. While appropriate resources should be provided to the missions for the successful implementation of their mandates, the need for making PKO operations more efficient and effective should not be overemphasized. My delegation urges the Secretariat to redouble its efforts to implement their mandates in the most effective and efficient manner, including through Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) and Umoja.

7. With regard to the structural and sustainable efficiency measures, my delegation attaches great importance to a thorough review of civilian staffing requirements of each mission. My delegation notes with appreciation that the average vacancy rate and turnover rate has decreased, due to the HRM reform measures taken so far. In this situation, my delegation believes that the review of the necessities of the long vacant posts of more than 1 year becomes imperative, and looks forward to the results of the review by the Secretariat.

8. Regarding other cross-cutting issues, we are particularly interested in, the Umoja project impact analysis, the concentration of the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) budget and efficiency gains, the comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the turnkey contracts, standard holding ratio adjustment for equipments, and the cost-efficient training.

9. In conclusion, I wish to stress the importance of reaching an agreement and hope that Member States will do their utmost in this endeavor. We must work together in the spirit of open-mindedness, inclusiveness, and flexibility. I would like to assure you that my delegation will engage constructively in our deliberations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.