

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**Agenda Item 146**

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

**Overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

**Proposed budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014**

**Support account for peacekeeping operations**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by**

**Ms. María Eugenia Casar**  
**Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

**14 May 2013**

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's overview report on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and note on the proposed budgetary levels for the 2013/14 period, as well as the Secretary-General's reports on the support account for peacekeeping operations under agenda item 146, as listed in today's journal.

The gross budget level for peacekeeping operations for 2013/14 is currently estimated at \$7.2 billion, which does not include requirements for the newly established UN peacekeeping mission in Mali. The proposed budget represents a reduction of 1.5 per cent, compared to the approved budget levels for the 2012/13 period. The reduction in requirements is mainly attributable to a reduction of the authorized military and police strength of UNMIL, MINUSTAH and UNAMID, the closure of UNMIT and a lower deployment of contingent personnel in UNIFIL. The overall lower requirements are partly offset by the deployment of additional contingent personnel for the intervention brigade in MONUSCO and higher operational requirements for the missions in the Sudan and South Sudan.

A significant reduction in the overall civilian staffing level of 744 posts and positions is also considered, whereas the number of uniformed personnel, based on the current peacekeeping mandates approved by the Security Council, is projected to be approximately 117,000 personnel, this number includes AMISOM uniformed personnel supported by UNSOA.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I would now like to turn to the Secretary-General's reports on the support account for peacekeeping operations.

By its resolutions 65/290 and 65/251, the General Assembly approved the support account requirements for the 2011/12 period in the total amount of \$344.8 million, including \$47.2 million for the financing of the enterprise resource planning. The budget implementation rate was 100 per cent for the same period, with over-expenditure in the amount of \$9.8 million incurred in respect of post resources, offset by under-expenditure of \$9.8 million in non-post resources.

Given the continuing higher common staff costs and lower-than-budgeted vacancy rates, it had been estimated that additional resources in the amount of \$15 million will be required for the 2012/13 period. Following the implementation of measures to contain expenditure, where feasible, and efforts made by all Departments and Offices, the latest projected over-expenditure has reduced to \$13 million, as provided in supplementary information under this agenda item, for which the General Assembly's approval is sought.

The proposed budget for the 2013/14 period is contained in documents A/67/756 and A/67/756/Add.1. The addendum to the report reflects the request of the ACABQ in its report A/66/779 which encouraged the Secretary-General to improve the support provided by Headquarters departments to field operations in relation to budgetary and financial matters in the context of the ongoing review of the peacekeeping budget development process. The totality of the support account proposal is illustrated in the annex to the report's addendum. Excluding provisions for the enterprise resource planning, the proposed budget of \$309.3 million represents an increase of 10.2 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of \$280.7 million for the 2012/13 period. The increase is attributable primarily to additional salary requirements driven by realistic planning assumptions for incumbency and common staff costs of the Organization, as well as unavoidable increases in the costs associated with ASHI (after-service health insurance), commercial rent for office space and communication charges. Although the level of the support account is increasing, it still remains at

approximately 5 per cent of the total proposed peacekeeping budget for 2013/14 of \$7.2 billion, which does not include requirements for the newly established UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, which will require backstopping from Headquarters.

For 2013/14, taking into account the repeated requests from the General Assembly to review the level of the support account on a regular basis taking into consideration the number and size of peacekeeping operations, a further net reduction of 26 posts and general temporary assistance positions is proposed. The effect of this reduction would be to further reduce vacancy rates of posts funded under the support account. The vacancy rates for the 2013/14 budget should be a reasonable reflection of the reality, including efforts to recruit up to the level of approved posts and positions.

**The actions to be taken by the General Assembly** in respect of the financing of the support account for peacekeeping are set out in paragraph 80 of the budget performance report (A/67/635) and paragraph 45 of the addendum to the budget report (A/67/756/Add.1).

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.