

Check against delivery

Financing of the United Nations United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

Statement of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Fifth Committee

7 May 2014

(ACABQ reports: A/68/782/Add. 4, 7, 10 and 3)

(Secretary-General reports: A/68/728, A/68/700, A/68/737, A/68/699)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on UNISFA, UNFICYP, MINUSTAH and MINURSO contained in document A/68/782, addenda 4, 7, 10 and 3 respectively.

Starting with the United Nations United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$1,037,600 to the proposed budget for 2014/15. Under civilian staffing, the Committee recommends the application of a 45 per cent vacancy rate for United Nations Volunteers and a 50 per cent vacancy rate for temporary positions, based on the actual vacancy rates as at 31 March 2014.

Under operational costs, the Committee recommends that the proposed requirements for official travel be maintained at current levels, taking into account the increased opportunities for using alternative means of communication, as well as the reductions expected in the cost of travel pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 65/268 and 67/254. The Committee also encourages the mission to increase its efforts to consolidate different meetings taking place at the same destination, and to minimize the number of travellers on any given trip.

Moving on to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2014/15, including the proposed staffing changes. The Committee also recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present a cost-benefit analysis comparing the acquisition against the rental of vehicles.

Regarding the adverse effect of recent exchange rate fluctuations on the proposed budget, the Advisory Committee recommends that information on the impact of these fluctuations be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the budget

proposals. In addition, the Committee commends UNFICYP for its efforts to achieve efficiencies and looks forward to receiving information on the actual gains realized.

Coming to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$1,029,100 to the proposed budget of the Mission for 2014/15 to reflect its recommended reduction in travel and staffing resources.

The Committee welcomes the efficiency initiatives undertaken by MINUSTAH in the areas of uniformed personnel, air transportation and communications and expects that they will be implemented in a manner that does not compromise the safety and security of Mission personnel and premises or put mandated activities at risk.

Mr Chairman, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's staffing proposals, including the abolishment of 146 posts and positions, in line with the ongoing reconfiguration and drawdown of the Mission's activities. In addition, the Committee reiterates that the continuing requirement for long posts should be reviewed and the posts proposed for retention or for abolishment.

Coming to the staffing proposals related to the establishment of an Integrated Solutions Support Unit in response to the cholera epidemic, the Advisory Committee does not object to the establishment of a temporary position of Senior Coordinator for Cholera at the Assistant-Secretary-General level. However, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of 3 temporary positions, 1 D-2 and 2 P-3, for the Unit.

As for the future of Santo Domingo Support Office, the Advisory Committee takes note of the recommendations of the strategic review undertaken for this purpose and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to keep the continuing need for this Office under review.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I will end with United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), for which the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$139,700 to the proposed budget for 2014/15.

Based on its analysis of the actual and proposed delayed deployment factors and vacancy rates, the Advisory Committee recommends the application of a vacancy factor of 5 per cent instead of the proposed 4 per cent to National General Service staff. With regard to police personnel, the Committee is not convinced that the Mission can achieve full deployment and recommends application of a delayed deployment rate of 15 per cent.

The Committee also recommends that the proposed requirements for official travel be maintained at current levels, taking into account the increased opportunities for using alternative means of communication, as well as the reductions expected in the cost of travel pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 65/268 and 67/254.

Mr Chairman, I thank you for your attention.

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (UNLB)
Statement of the Chairman of the ACABQ

ACABQ report A/68/782/Add.8

Related reports of the Secretary-General: A/68/575 and 727

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee is recommending an overall net reduction of \$1,147,300 to the proposed budget for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period 2014/15.

The Advisory Committee notes that the cost-benefit analysis of the consolidation of geographic information system functions in Brindisi undertaken by the Secretary-General is based, inter alia, on the reductions of posts in a number of Missions currently being proposed for significant downsizing in the 2014/15 period. While the Committee does not object to the consolidation of geospatial information system functions in the Global Service Centre, it is of the view that there may be opportunities for further streamlining the staffing of the proposed Geospatial Information Systems Centre. In the view of the Committee, the Secretary-General's proposal consolidating these functions in the Global Service Centre should be considered as a pilot initiative. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly approve the establishment, on a pilot basis, of seven general temporary assistance positions, comprising one P-5, one P-3, two P-2, one Field Service and two national General Service positions, for the Geospatial Information Systems Centre, while it recommends against approval of two of the proposed national General Service posts.

The Advisory Committee is also of the view that the proposal to locate the leadership of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies in Valencia does not conform to its mandated role as a secondary active telecommunications facility and for hosting the enterprise data centres and enterprise applications. It therefore recommends that the General Assembly rather approve the reclassification of the P-5 post of Chief of the Communications and Information Technology Service in Brindisi to the D-1 level to head the Service.

The Advisory Committee recommends against the proposal to remove the global function of education grant processing from the Global Service Centre and to centralize this function in the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, and it therefore recommends against the corresponding abolishment of two General Service posts that currently perform these functions in Brindisi. In this regard, the Committee considers that the provision of global functions in the Regional Service Centre is a significant departure from the initial vision for the global field support strategy, and it recommends that the Global Service Centre continue to process education grant claims on behalf of missions that are not clients of the Regional Service Centre.

Taking into account its related recommendation against the proposed abolishment of the Conduct and Discipline Unit in UNMIK, the Committee recommends against the approval of the

proposed post of Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-4), as there is existing capacity in UNLB in this area.

The Advisory Committee emphasizes the need to ensure detailed and transparent accounting and reporting on the costs of the operations of the Enterprise Data Centres at Brindisi and Valencia, specifically to reflect the totality of the resources made available to UNLB and the facility in Valencia for hosting and providing Umoja support services in a fully transparent manner in future budget submissions and performance reports of UNLB , including cost-recovery income received from peacekeeping operations and other user departments, offices and entities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman