

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 148

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

**Budget performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period
from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/70/612 and Add.1)**

**Budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period
from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/70/751)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

9 May 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations under agenda item 148.
2. The support account encompasses 14 offices and departments throughout the United Nations Secretariat that come together to backstop approximately 160,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 15 missions throughout the globe.
3. I would like to highlight a number of important challenges that were met with the support account during the 2014/15 fiscal period:
 - 1) The continued strengthening of new missions, including MINUSMA (Mali) and MINUSCA (Central African Republic); strategic shifts, reconfiguration and reprioritization within MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), UNMISS (South Sudan) and UNAMID (Sudan); the streamlining and consolidation of

MINUSTAH (Haiti) and UNMIL (Liberia); and ongoing backstopping of established field missions in increasingly challenging environments;

- 2) Preparation of the second set of IPSAS-compliant financial statements for all active and closed peacekeeping missions;
- 3) The stabilization of Umoja Extension I, the centralization of payments in Umoja, and the deployment of relevant functionality across peacekeeping operations; and
- 4) Continued efforts to enhance efficiency and improve management of resources through auditing, investigation and evaluation.

4. The total expenditures for the period amounted to \$324.2 million, an implementation rate of 99.4 per cent (Details are provided in Section III B of the report).

Mr. Chairman,

5. Based on the request of the General Assembly to review the level of the support account, the Chef de Cabinet met with the heads of departments and offices at the beginning of this budget preparation, in a holistic consultative process. They addressed key issues including the strategic needs of the field, organizational priorities, and the related level of the support required to backstop missions for each one of the offices included in the support account.

6. The proposed budget for 2016/17 reflects a more rapid, effective, efficient and responsible support to the field, mainly in the following three areas:

- Strengthened accountability of the United Nations;
- Agile field support and planning; and
- Increased care for personnel in the field.

7. In order to carry out all critical tasks, 24 additional posts and general temporary assistance positions were identified in priority areas, particularly related to the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO), such as, force generation, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, human rights, medical performance and security. In addition, the Secretary-General is proposing to transfer 9 posts from the budget of the Global Service Centre to the support account as part of the realignment of resources. But in order to contain the increase in the budget and accommodate these priorities within existing resources to

the maximum extent possible, the Secretary-General is also proposing abolishment of 13 posts and positions by reprioritizing and restructuring, including those identified to be related to the benefits of the deployment of Umoja.

8. As to the scalability of the support account, I am pleased to relate to you that the current level is contained at 4.0 per cent of the \$8.2 billion peacekeeping budget (excluding ERP costs). Enterprise resource planning and information and system security have decreased from \$32.1 million to \$17.6 million. Therefore, the overall support account budget at \$332.1 million is 1.3 per cent lower than the 2015/16 level (\$336.5 million).

Mr. Chairman,

9. The support account enables the Secretariat to provide robust and efficient backstopping of peacekeeping operations, especially in a time of new challenges and rapidly changing realities on the ground. The functions funded by the support account ensure that mandates are carried out, and that Member States' resources for peacekeeping are used in the most efficient and effective manner.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, my colleagues and I look forward to the discussions on this item.