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Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

9 May 2016

Financing of United Nations PKOs

**Budget for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (UNISFA)**
(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.16; related reports A/70/574; A/70/701)

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and
proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 of the United Nations
Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)**
(ACABQ report: A/70/742/Add. 13; related report: A/70/586, A/70/753)

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and proposed
budget for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 of the United Nations
Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
(MONUSCO)**
(ACABQ report: A/70/742/Add. 5; related reports: A/70/613; A/70/766)

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and proposed
budget for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 of the United Nations Interim
Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)**
(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.10; related report: A/70/566 and A/70/707)

**Budget performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western
Sahara for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and proposed budget for the
United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for period from 1 July
2016 to 30 June 2017 (MINURSO)**
(ACABQ report: A/70/742/Add.; related reports: A/70/570 and A/70/696)

**Budget performance for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 for the United Nations
Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) and proposed
budget for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 for the United Nations Support
Office in Somalia (UNSOS)**
(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.14, related reports A/70/587 and A/70/773)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on UNISFA, UNOCI, MONUSCO, UNMIK, MINURSO and UNSOS.

The Advisory Committee is recommending a reduction of \$207,900 to the proposed budget of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

The Advisory Committee is of the view that further efforts can be made to use travel resources more efficiently, and is recommending a 5 per cent reduction in the requirements proposed for travel. The Committee is also recommending against approval of a third armoured vehicle.

With regard to the Mission's construction projects, the Advisory Committee welcomes the start of construction activity which has been delayed since 2013/14. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to closely monitor progress and make every effort to ensure that the planned construction activities are completed according to schedule and that the living conditions in the camps are improved without further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

In regard to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Advisory Committee is aware that the most recent extension of the Operation's mandate was authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 2284 (2016) of 28 April 2016. The Committee notes from the letter of the Controller dated 2 May 2016, that, at present, the United Nations Secretariat is reviewing the impact of the Council resolution on the financing of UNOCI and that the Secretary-General will present a revised budget proposal for the consideration of the General Assembly in the main part of its seventy-first session.

Therefore, the Committee does not consider it appropriate to make any recommendations on the present budget proposal of the Secretary-General for the full financial period, 2016/17, at this time. Instead, the Committee recommends the General Assembly to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for an amount equal to half of the proposed budget for 2016/17 for the maintenance of UNOCI for the first six months of the financial period. The amount recommended by the Committee equals \$160,354,500.

The Committee looks forward to receiving the revised budget proposal of the Secretary-General for 2016/17.

Mr Chairman,

Turning now to MONUSCO, the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$3,325,500 to the proposed budget of the MONUSCO for the 2016/17 period.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the Mission's initiatives to enhance the delivery of support services including: strengthening the supply chain management structure, reconfiguring air operations, as well as new information and communications technology services such as O3B satellite communications technology. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to report on the effectiveness and related efficiencies of these initiatives in his next budget submission.

The Committee also makes observations and recommendations on a number of issues, including: staffing proposals, long vacant posts, and the relationship between the Entebbe Support Base and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe. The Committee proposes reductions in the resources proposed for official travel, the acquisition of new vehicles, and the Mission's unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

Mr Chairman,

With respect to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing changes in the proposed budget which comprise a net reduction of 20 civilian posts or positions including 10 national posts. The Committee, however, recalls that the General Assembly had noted the need for missions to build national capacity and reiterates its support to the trend towards nationalisation of posts and positions, whenever possible.

The Advisory Committee further notes that the proposed staffing reductions include a number of substantive posts/positions and highlights that the Secretary-General reflects these reductions as "efficiency gains". It expects that the Secretary-General will provide further explanations on this matter to the General Assembly.

The Advisory Committee commends UNMIK for its efforts to introduce renewable energy alternatives and for its comprehensive approach to waste management.

Overall, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget for the 2016/17 period.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the Committee recommends a reduction of \$1,739,100 to the proposed budget for the 2016/17 period.

The recommendations include reductions under official travel; air transportation; other supplies, services and equipment; and post resources, where the Committee recommends against a proposed Field Service post.

The Committee also notes with concern the cash deficit of MINURSO and reiterates that the Secretary-General should continue exploring available options to address the issue of late payment of assessed contributions, including engaging more actively with Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, turning to the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance for UNSOA and the proposed budget for UNSOS. The Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$5,175,300 to the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/70/773).

Under provisions for military and police personnel, the Advisory Committee has analysed the proposed increases related to the amendment to the ration contract. The Committee also notes the higher amount budgeted for reimbursement for self-sustainment and requested that more information should be provided to the General Assembly.

As regards the Committee's comments and recommendations on staffing, of the 144 new posts and positions proposed for 2016/17, the Committee recommends against the establishment of 25, including one post for an Assistant Secretary-General. While the Committee recognizes the need to strengthen the leadership functions within UNSOS, it is of the view that the strengthening of the leadership of UNSOS requires the continued presence of the current senior leadership in Somalia.

The Committee also questions the proposed resource increases for 2016/17 under both civilian personnel (\$6.3 million or 11.6 per cent) and for outsourced services (\$3.7 million or 29.8 per cent). The Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should have provided clarity with respect to these proposed resource increases, in particular concerning the respective functions and locations of staff and consultants.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.