

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

2 May 2016

Financing of United Nations PKOs

MINUSCA

(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.12, related reports A/70/604, A/70/712)

MINUSTAH

(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.4, related reports A/70/602, A/70/740)

UNMIL

(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.11, related reports A/70/595, A/70/719)

UNDOF

(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.1, related reports A/70/572, A/70/695)

UNIFIL

(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.8, related reports A/70/571, A/70/699)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on MINUSCA, MINUSTAH, UNMIL, UNDOF and UNIFIL.

First, on the Advisory Committee's report on MINUSCA (A/70/742/Add.12), for the budget performance for the 2014/15 period, the Committee notes the issues raised by the Board of Auditors related to planning and budget estimates. The Committee understands that MINUSCA was a start-up mission at that time. The Committee shares the view of the Board that justification for the proposed redeployments should have been clearly indicated, since the budget was based on the results-based-budgeting framework.

Regarding the proposed budget for 2016/17, the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$1,792,900 to the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/70/712). Related recommendations are contained in paragraphs 42, 44, 57 and 70 of the report of the Committee.

The staffing proposals for 2016/17 reflect the establishment of 210 posts/positions, the abolishment of 77 and the exclusion of those 44 posts/positions budgeted under the Mission for 2015/16, as a client mission to the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe. According to the Secretary-General, the proposed increased level of civilian personnel results primarily from the final phase of the establishment programme of the Mission (see A/70/742/Add.12, paras. 36-50).

Concerning the proposed deployment of unmanned aerial systems and other security surveillance equipment by MINUSCA, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a lack of clarity concerning the budgeting and calculation of these costs and discusses these matters in paragraphs 54 to 61 of its report.

In addition, the proposed budget for 2016/17 does not reflect resource requirements arising from Security Council resolution 2264 (2016), which authorized a further increase of 68 corrections officers. The Committee was informed that the financial impact of the increase could amount to approximately \$3 million for the period. The Secretariat would closely monitor resource requirements and would take account of the wider priorities of the Mission in distributing available resources to absorb the related resource requirements for the period.

Mr Chairman,

Moving on to the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/742/Add.4) on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget of \$346,926,700 for MINUSTAH during the 2016/17 period.

The Committee also recommends approval of the proposed reductions in civilian staff personnel, while trusting that the Mission has the adequate capability to support the Government of Haiti in its ongoing electoral process and supporting the Mission's efforts to assist staff affected by the continuing downsizing process.

Under operational costs, the Advisory Committee notes a planned reduction in the number of the flying hours and trusts that this reduction will not adversely affect the Mission's ability to provide airlift capability.

The Advisory Committee also notes that additional resources related to substantive activities in the area of rule of law in support of the Government of Haiti, appear in the proposed budget under operational costs; the Committee considers that these activities should be described under the substantive part of the budget and trusts that the Secretary-General will provide information on this issue in the relevant performance reports.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals. As the Mission draws down, the Committee expects that it will continue its efforts to reduce the overall environmental footprint, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/307.

Mr. Chairman,

I now introduce the Committee's report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed resources for 2016/17 for UNDOF except for a small reduction under official travel, as the Committee is of the view that it is sufficient for only one staff member to participate in certain conferences and workshops.

Turning now to the Committee's report on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Committee also recommends approval of most of the proposed resources. Under official travel, the Committee recommends a five per cent reduction, as the supporting information requested by the Committee was not received and it was therefore unable to undertake a proper analysis. With respect to training fees, supplies and services, the Committee notes that the resources in the past financial periods have not been fully utilized and therefore recommends a reduction to a level which is comparable to last year.

I also would like to highlight that UNIFIL had planned, until last year, to outsource the maintenance services for buildings and generators and subsequently abolished 48 engineering posts. UNIFIL has now concluded that such outsourcing would be too costly and to use in-house resources instead. The Advisory Committee recommends that details explaining the rationale for the reversal of the decision to outsource should be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report, with details on cost comparisons, including the direct and indirect costs involved.

Thank you Mr. Chairman