

**Statement of the Chairman**  
**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**11 May 2016**

**Financing of United Nations PKOs**

**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 Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)**  
*(ACABQ report: A/70/742/Add. 2; related reports: A/70/592, A/70/735/Rev. 1)*

**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 Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**  
*(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.15; related reports A/70/599 and A/70/791)*

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance and proposed budget on MINUSMA.

The Advisory Committee continues to be concerned by the loss of lives. The Committee notes the steps taken by MINUSMA to enhance the security arrangements and supports the Secretary-General in continuing his efforts to ensure the safety and security of the Mission's personnel.

Regarding the 2014/15 financial period, the Advisory Committee notes that the construction projects could not be implemented as planned, partly due to the security situation in northern Mali, and partly due to the absence of the required information of market trends and a construction site. The Committee expects that the planning of such projects will be better supported by both Headquarters and the Mission in the future.

Regarding the proposed budget for 2016/17, the Advisory Committee recommends reductions under official travel and communications, which in total, amount to \$611,700. In respect of the use of air assets, the Committee concurs with the Board of Auditors that the Mission review its requirements for unmanned aerial systems and assess if costs can be reduced without compromising operations. The Committee looks forward to receiving updated information on this matter and also on the results achieved from undertaking mine clearing services in the context of the next budget submission.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning now to the Advisory Committee's report on the budget performance and proposed budget for UNMISS (A/70/742/Add.15).

The Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$3,240,400 to the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/70/791). Related recommendations are contained in paragraphs 24, 25, 26, 28 and 31 of report of the Committee.

The 2016/17 budget reflects the proposed abolishment of 78 posts and positions, and the proposed establishment of 33. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian personnel. The Committee also welcomes the improvement made to the presentation of the staffing changes.

The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee are related to the proposed operational costs, including the estimates for an unmanned aerial system. The Committee notes the uncertainty associated with the potential deployment of such a system. The Committee further notes that the estimated cost was not calculated on the basis of the specific needs of UNMISS. In addition, the Committee is of the view that the cost estimates of \$20 million, as a benchmark for an unmanned aerial system, were not validated by sufficient information. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of \$2 million to the proposed provision of \$10 million for such a system for 2016/17.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.