

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

11 May 2017

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

(ACABQ report A/71/836/Add.8; related reports: A/71/651 and A/71/819)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

(ACABQ report A/71/836/Add.14; related reports: A/71/690 and A/71/842)

Budget performance of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and Proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (UNMISS)

(ACABQ report A/71/836/Add.15 related reports A/71/653; A/71/841)

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on MINUSCA, MINUSMA and UNMISS.

With respect to MINUSCA, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$18,873,200 to the proposed budget for 2017/18, reflecting the Committee's recommendations against the establishment of 10 posts and positions. The Committee also recommends against the proposed reassignment of 12 posts, as these reassignments would imply a complete change of functions without sufficient information provided on workload and on new responsibility. Consequently, the Committee recommends their abolishment.

With regard to the operational costs, the Committee recommends a 10 per cent reduction to the proposed resources for construction, a 50 per cent reduction to the proposed resources for consultant and a 30 per cent reduction on official travel. Moreover the Committee recommends adjustments to the proposed resources for aerostat and unmanned aerial systems as well as fuel.

Madam Chairperson,

Turning now to MINUSMA, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$16,684,100 to the proposed budget for 2017/18, reflecting the Committee's recommendations against the establishment of 22 posts and positions. The Committee also recommends against the proposed reassignment of three posts, as these reassignments would imply a complete change of functions and lack sufficient information on workload and new responsibility, the Committee therefore recommends their abolishment.

With regard to the operational costs, the Committee recommends a 20 reduction to the proposed travel expenditures outside mission area and a 50 reduction of the proposed resource increase for facilities and infrastructure; as well as adjustments to the proposed resources for Unmanned Aerial Systems and Public information services including printing and reproduction.

Madam Chairperson,

Lastly, for UNMISS, the Advisory Committee is recommending a reduction of \$19.3 million to the proposed budget for 2017/18.

With regard to posts and positions, the Advisory Committee recommends abolishment of eight posts proposed for reassignment out of a total of 72 proposed reassignments and redeployments. It was of the view that insufficient justification for the new functions of those eight posts was provided. The Committee also recommends application of a vacancy factor of 50 per cent for the remaining post reassignments proposed. In addition, the Committee recommends abolishment of 13 posts that have been vacant for over two years, given that a re-justification for the continued requirement for those posts was not provided. In view of the pattern of expenditure, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources for national staff be maintained at the highest level of the actual expenditures incurred in recent years and be reduced by an overall amount of \$8 million. The Committee also recommends discontinuation of three general temporary assistance positions established in 2011/12 in the Special Advisers Section given that the requirements of the positions were not justified.

Concerning operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommends reductions under consultants, official travel, facilities and infrastructure, air operations and communications. Under non-training consultants, the Committee recommends a reduction of \$124,000, taking the view that the Mission should be in a position to assume some of the tasks proposed to be conferred upon the consultants. With regard to official travel, the Committee is of the view that further efforts can be made to reduce the number of trips and use alternative means of communication, and recommends an overall reduction of 20 per cent to the proposed resources. The Committee also makes recommendations for reductions under a number of categories of expenditure based on the recorded or estimated pattern of expenditures during the performance and actual periods and the proposed requirements for 2017/18. These include recommendations for: a reduction of \$5 million to the overall proposed resources under facilities and infrastructure; a reduction of \$1 million to the proposed provision of \$2 million for the unmanned aerial system; and a 5 per cent reduction to the overall resources proposed for communications.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.