

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 149
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 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/701 and Add.1)

Budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period
from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/790/Rev.1)

Comprehensive review of the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/72/814)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
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Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

15 May 2018

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 149 as listed in today's journal.
2. The support account encompasses 14 offices and departments throughout the United Nations Secretariat that come together to backstop approximately 140,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 14 missions (and 13 missions expected in 2018/19) throughout the globe.

2016/17 Budget Performance

3. Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to highlight some of the key areas in 2016/17:
 - a. We supported peacekeeping missions in challenging environments including the strengthening of MINUSMA (Mali) and UNMISS (South Sudan);

- b. We guided MINUSCA (Central African Republic) on the protection of civilians and in promoting political dialogue in the Central African Republic;
- c. We assisted MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo) in supporting the implementation of the Peace and Security Framework, in promoting political dialogue, protecting civilians and supporting voter registration; and
- d. We guided the ongoing transition and drawdown of MINUSTAH (Haiti) and UNMIL (Liberia).
- e. The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) was restructured to reflect the Organization's strengthened strategic partnership with the African Union.

In addition Mr. Chairman,

- f. We strengthened responsiveness by streamlining procedures in areas such as the delegation of authority, human resource management and procurement.
 - g. We worked on key organizational initiatives, including the development of a new and strengthened whistle-blower policy, Umoja, mobility and career development and the global service delivery model, and in assisting to address sexual exploitation and abuse within the United Nations system.
 - h. We established the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)-compliant fixed asset management framework, accompanied by the promulgation of policy, certification procedures for property management and training materials.
 - i. We improved the quality of medical care in the field and implemented the electronic medical records management system (EarthMed) implemented fully in the field.
4. In the performance of those support functions, the support account incurred expenditures of \$327.1 million, which was an implementation rate of 99.9 per cent.

2018/19 Budget Proposals

5. Mr. Chairman, I would like now to briefly highlight key points related to the proposal for 2018/19.

6. The budget proposal incorporates the impact of the proposed initiatives of the Secretary-General, including the peace and security reform, the management reform; and the Global Service Delivery Model. It shows the requirements from 1 July to 31 December 2018 for the departments and offices affected by the Secretary-General's reforms under the current structure of the Secretariat, and for the period from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 the proposed revised structure of the Secretariat. The presentation of the support account budget proposal aligns with the implementation of the reform initiatives of the Secretary-General as of 1 January 2019, and we trust that the Assembly will find it helpful to see a consistent and detailed view of the human and financial resource requirements before and after the implementation of the proposed reforms for backstopping peacekeeping operations. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/295, the budget report presentation has been streamlined to make it more strategic and analytical with the increased use of tables and graphics.

7. During the first six months from 1 July to 31 December 2018, the proposed budget reflects strengthening in the high priority areas including sexual harassment investigations and sexual exploitation and abuse case management, gender parity, human rights, occupational safety and health as well as management evaluation. The net decrease in the staffing establishment of one post reflects reprioritization of resources.

8. During the second six months, upon implementation of the proposed reform initiatives starting 1 January 2019, a further reduction of 30 posts is proposed including: 22 posts and 2 general temporary positions from the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support (DOS), which will be phased out by the end of the period, related to the establishment of the Global Shared Service Centres; and 6 posts reduced in DOS to support the increased delegation of authority to field missions by re-establishing the same posts in six large and complex peacekeeping missions on 1 January 2019.

9. Furthermore, for the first time, resources for the Peacebuilding Support Office are presented under the support account. As of 1 January 2019, and as reflected in the reform initiative on peace and security, three posts will be moved from DPKO to the Peacebuilding Support Office under the newly established Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

10. In terms of the support account's proportional size compared with peacekeeping operations, the ratio of the support account will remain at 4.4 per cent compared to the proposed

peacekeeping mission budgets. The financial resources required for the core requirements of the support account for 2018/19 are estimated at \$296.7 million, representing a net decrease of \$2.3 million (0.8 per cent), compared with the approved resources for the 2017/18 period. A comprehensive review of the support account has been undertaken, and the results are contained in document A/72/814.

11. When taking into account resources for organizational initiatives as approved by the General Assembly, and new centralized additional requirements for peacekeeping backstopping, the total proposed budget amounts to \$354.8 million, representing an increase of \$29 million (8.9 per cent), compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. The increased requirements of cross-cutting and corporate initiatives, amounting to \$31.4 million relate to the Umoja project, supply chain management, information system security, the Global Service Delivery Model project and the costs for the proposed Global Shared Service Centres as well as provisions for reimbursement for the peacekeeping capability readiness system as endorsed in General Assembly resolution 71/296.

12. In summary, the core proposal before you remains within the current approved level of resources. As shown in Table 5, on page 20 and 21 of the budget report, changes related to the peacekeeping share of contributions to enterprise-wide initiatives impact the support account, reflecting more accurately the true cost of supporting peacekeeping operations in this complex environment.

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