

Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

18 May 2020

Final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Mission in Liberia
(ACABQ report A/74/828; related report of the Secretary-General A/74/726)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Noting that after the beginning of the liquidation of UNMIL, 71.6 per cent of the assets written off or lost were categorized as surplus, the Committee stresses the importance that missions lighten their footprint to the maximum extent possible during its final stages of operations.

The Committee welcomes the transfer of the UNMIL radio broadcasting station to ECOWAS to enable the establishment of a regional public information platform, and encourages the Secretary-General to identify similar opportunities in the context of future dispositions of assets, in full adherence to the relevant rules and regulations.

The Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of documenting, updating and sharing lessons learned and best practices arising from recent dispositions of assets, and is of the view that future reports of the Secretary-General on asset disposal should include information on relevant challenges and best practices. The Committee also recommends

that the Secretary-General develop criteria in order to assess the final disposition of assets in closing peacekeeping missions, for the consideration of the General Assembly during its 75th session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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18 May 2020

Final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
(ACABQ report A/74/829; related report of the Secretary-General A/74/729)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Noting that MINUSTAH liquidation activities, including the disposal of assets, were continued by MINUJUSTH during its start-up phase, the Committee emphasizes the importance that closing missions complete their final disposition of assets and avoid transferring an undue administrative burden on follow-on entities.

The Advisory Committee notes with concern the lack of full information regarding lost or stolen assets in MINUSTAH, which include 81 lost sea containers and 17 stolen light vehicles. The Committee recommends that future reports of the Secretary-General on disposition of assets reports contain greater information on and explanation for assets lost or stolen, in order to present a more transparent overview of the disposal process to the General Assembly.

The Committee is also of the view that, when identifying assets for gifting, the

Secretary-General should take into account sustainability considerations, particularly when assets may have an environmental impact or may require transfer of capacity or training.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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18 May 2020

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and
proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 of the United
Nations Disengagement Observer Force**

*(ACABQ report: A/74/737, Add.7; related Secretary-General's reports:
A/74/596, A/74/697)*

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 of the United Nations United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

The Committee notes that the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2020/21 amounts to \$64,239,100 for Military and police personnel (\$37,786,700), Civilian personnel (\$16,374,500) and Operational costs (\$10,077,900), which represents an increase from 2019/20, by 7.4 per cent or \$5 170,300.

Concerning the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2020/21, the Committee recommends the approval of the proposed staffing. Nevertheless, as regards the proposed reassignment of the position of Senior Adviser (P-5) as Senior Strategic Planning Officer (P-5) in the Office of the Force Commander, the Committee does not recommend the reassignment and recommends discontinuation of the position of P-5 Senior Adviser. The Committee recalls the General Assembly's request that vacant positions be filled expeditiously and reiterates that the continuing requirements for posts that have been vacant for two years or longer be either proposed for retention or abolishment.

In terms of operational costs, the Committee is not fully convinced by the justification provided for the increased level of resources and recommends reductions under official travel, ground transportation and facilities and infrastructure.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$295,900 from \$64,239,100 to \$63,943,200.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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18 May 2020

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and
proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 for the
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon**

(ACABQ report A/74/737/Add. 9)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The Committee notes that the Secretary-General's proposal for 2020/21 amounts to \$483,608,500, under military and police personnel (\$342,443,000), civilian personnel (\$95,653,000), and operational costs (\$45,512,500), which represents an increase by 0.7 per cent or \$3,505,900 from 2019/20.

The Advisory Committee recommends reductions under official travel; facilities and infrastructure; ground transportation; communications and information technology; and other supplies, services and equipment. The Committee therefore recommends reductions in the amount of \$1,659,400 to the proposed resources for 2020/21.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.