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Agenda Item 146

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
Support account for peacekeeping operations
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (UNLB)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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14 May 2012

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's reports on the support account for peacekeeping operations and on the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (UNLB) under the agenda item scheduled for discussion today.

Support account for peacekeeping operations
Budget performance report

The budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 is contained in document A/66/610 and Add. 1.

By its resolutions 64/271, 64/288 and 65/259, the General Assembly approved the support account requirements for the 2010/11 period in the total amount of \$363.8 million. Expenditures for the same period amounted to \$341.4 million. This resulted in an unspent balance of \$22.4 million, representing a resource utilization rate of 93.8%. The unspent balance is primarily attributable to lower expenditures due to the

higher-than-budgeted actual vacancy rates for civilian personnel, including temporary positions, as well as lower than budgeted requirements for information technology.

Proposed budget report

The proposed budget for the 2012/13 period is contained in document A/66/721. The budget amounts to \$320.5 million, which represents a reduction of \$24.3 million or 7.1%, compared to the approved support account requirements of \$344.8 million for 2011/12. The proposed resources include \$37.3 million for the financing of Umoja, based on General Assembly resolution 66/246 and on the estimates presented by the Secretary-General in his third progress report on Umoja (A/66/381). Excluding the Umoja requirement for both periods, the decrease is \$14.5 million, or 4.9%, compared to the approved budget for 2011/12.

Proposals for resources for 2012/13 do not include new posts. Continuing general temporary assistance positions for recurring functions have not been proposed for conversion into posts, as we continue to review the possibility of redeploying and reassigning existing resources. An effort has also been made to adapt the use of temporary positions for very specific time-bound initiatives.

The key variances are mainly explained by:

- a reduction of 36 posts, of which 34 correspond to functions proposed to be transferred from the Department of Field Support (DFS) at Headquarters to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (Global Service Centre);
- reduced requirements for temporary positions, partly due to transfer of resources from the DFS Headquarters to the Global Service Centre; and
- reduced provision for information technology.

These reduced requirements have been partly offset by increased requirements for consultants, primarily due to additional resources requested for IPSAS implementation activities, and increased requirements under other supplies, services and equipment, primarily associated to the support account share of the cost of the administration of justice system, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/247.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in respect of the financing of the support account for peacekeeping are set out in paragraph 93 of the budget performance report (A/66/610 and Add.1) and paragraph 699 of the budget report (A/66/721).

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would now like to turn to the Secretary-General's reports on the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

Budget performance report

The budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 is contained in document A/66/603.

By its resolution 64/270 of 24 June 2010, the General Assembly approved the requirements for the 2010/11 period for the Logistics Base in an amount of \$68.2 million. Expenditures for the same period amounted to \$68.1 million. This resulted in an unspent balance of \$53,900, representing a resource utilization rate of 99.9%.

Proposed budget report

The proposed budget for the 2012/13 period is contained in document A/66/724. The budget amounts to \$70.5 million, which represents an increase of \$2.0 million or 2.8%, compared to the approved amount of \$68.5 million for 2011/12. The key variances are the proposed transfer of logistics and human resources functions from DFS Headquarters to the Global Service Centre, in line with the global field support strategy and the reprofiling of the Logistics Base as a Global Service Centre. In this regard, 34 posts and 16 GTA positions are proposed to be established at the Global Service Centre during the 2012/13 period, and concurrently proposed to be abolished in the support account for peacekeeping operations.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in respect of the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base are set out in paragraph 31 of the budget performance report (A/66/603) and paragraph 97 of the budget report (A/66/724).

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I look forward to the discussions on these items.

Thank you.