

UNMISS

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

(ACABQ report A/66/592; Secretary-General's report; A/66/532)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the pleasure to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/66/592) on the proposed Budget for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 (A/66/532). The Secretary-General proposes resources in the amount of \$738,266,500 for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, which provides for the deployment of 7,900 uniformed personnel and 3,053 civilian personnel and 500 temporary positions.

The Advisory Committee notes the proposals for the establishment of multifunctional clusters in the Mission, which should facilitate a coherent approach to mandate delivery. The Committee also notes the decentralized approach taken in the organizational structure of the Mission, and expects that the Secretary-General will document, disseminate and apply lessons learned, as well as draw from experience in deploying other complex and decentralized Missions such as the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

Regarding the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee considers that the number of posts requested under executive direction and management may be excessive and, as such, has made specific comments and recommendations on posts in this area.

The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General's proposal for the start-up budget of UNMISS is the first instance of the application of the standardized funding model, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/289. In accordance with the standardized funding model, the budget document provides mandate-specific results-based budgeting frameworks for the substantive components of the mission and detailed mission-specific staffing. Financial resources and the logical framework for the support component of the mission are indicative, and provide an overall level of funding based on the scenario and profile that most closely resembles the mandate of the Mission.

The Advisory Committee notes that the key premise on which the standardized funding model is based, namely the similarity of operations and resource requirements of missions in their first year of existence as they build up deployment of personnel and assets, does not fully apply in the case of the new Mission in South Sudan, given its inheritance of uniformed and civilian personnel and assets from UNMIS. Moreover, following the establishment of the Mission in July 2011, the General Assembly provided resources (\$278 million) for its deployment for the period ending 31 December 2011. The Mission did not therefore face the time constraints of a typical start-up mission and there was sufficient time to prepare a full budget for consideration by the General Assembly.

In light of the fact that UNMISS is not a typical start-up mission, the Committee had certain difficulties in its consideration of the budgetary proposals for 2011/12, in particular the lack of clarity and transparency as to the actual requirements of the Mission. The application of the standardized funding model for the first year of operations of UNMISS appears to have created an artificial constraint impeding the full presentation of the current and known requirements of the Mission for the period, rather than providing the greater flexibility to the Mission's leadership to translate the total funding envelope into mission-specific programmatic and support requirements. The Advisory Committee also questions whether the standardized funding model, as applied to UNMISS, meets a key objective of the Secretary-General, which was to accelerate the process for obtaining the necessary funding for start-up operations. In this regard, the Committee notes that the budget document remains voluminous, and does not appear to be designed to accelerate neither its production by the Secretariat, nor its consideration by the General Assembly.

Notwithstanding its concerns, and given the timing of the budget cycle, the Committee considers that approval of the start-up budget as presented by the Secretary-General would be the most practical approach. The Committee is nonetheless recommending that the Secretary-General be requested to provide comprehensive explanations on the resources utilized, as well as details on actual achievements, in the context of the performance report for UNMISS for the 2011/12 period. While recognizing that its recommendations on specific positions or operational costs will not result in a reduction in the level of the proposed resources, given that the standardized funding model provides an indicative level of overall funding, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General take them into account during the start-up period as well as in the preparation of the full budget for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

In light of the particular circumstances of the new Mission in South Sudan, the Advisory Committee was unable to comment in greater detail on the applicability of the standardized funding model to start-up missions. The Secretary-General had also indicated that the model was not applicable to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Given that the standardized funding model was not applicable to either of the two new peacekeeping operations established in 2011, the Committee questions whether it is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the operational requirements and conditions of start-up operations. The current design of the model, limited to six profile/scenario combinations with an overall level of funding for each combination, may be too restrictive, thereby limiting its application to a narrow range of "typical" start-up operations. The Committee is of the view that alternative methodologies for establishing standardized funding and costing models should be explored, based, inter alia, on the experience acquired through the first application of the model to UNMISS.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.