



BRAZIL

66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Statement by Mr. Sérgio Rodrigues dos Santos,
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10 May 2012

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Chile, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

I would like to thank the Controller, Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, under agenda item 157. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Collen Kelapile, for introducing the relevant report of the Advisory Committee, and Under-Secretary-General Carmen Lapointe for presenting the report of OIOS.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past year, MINUSTAH has made important progress in its support to the Haitian people's efforts to consolidate democracy, stability and the rule of law and move forward on the path to social and economic development. Great strides have also been made towards reconstruction in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. In spite of these efforts, the situation in Haiti remains fragile as the country strives to overcome its daunting political, social, and economic challenges.

Through its resolution 2012 (2011), the Security Council decided to reduce the overall force levels of MINUSTAH. At the same time, it extended the Mission's complex mandate. Important challenges still lie ahead for the mission, including support to training and equipping of the Haitian National Police; reducing the threat from the resurgence in gang violence; and fostering local capacities with a view to strengthening Haitian institutions. By and large, the budget presented by the Secretary-General proposes resource allocations that in most respects adequately correspond to this complex mandate.

I would like to make reference to some specific elements of the budget presented to us today. Firstly, we underline the need to ensure proper funding for Community Violence Reduction programs in Haiti, based on the situation on the ground. Given the specific nature of the security challenges that Haiti faces, these programs have proved to be a critical and effective tool to help build sustainable peace and security in the country. They are also a prime example of peacekeeping's ability to adapt itself to the specific needs of host countries, instead of trying to impose "one size fits all" solutions.

MINUSTAH's use of Quick Impact Projects has also been central to the progress it has made, particularly after the earthquake. The Mission's ability to foster security and build local capacities is directly linked to its ability to maintain a dialogue with the local population. QIPs are an important part of this equation and contribute to the effective implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks. We therefore stress the need for their adequate funding and continued implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned with some of the cuts in operational areas of MINUSTAH's 2012-2013 budget, in particular the reduction of the resources allocated to rations and fuel. These cuts do not seem to have a clear justification or a direct correlation to the situation on the ground.

Brazil wishes to underline that while it is important to pursue efficiencies in peacekeeping missions, these should always be based on the reality on the ground in each mission. The across-the-board cuts in key resourcing areas proposed by the Secretary-General will directly impact the troops on the ground and their ability to carry out their mandated tasks. We note with regret that this kind of reduction seems to have been proposed in most of the peacekeeping budgets before us.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to reiterate our strong support for MINUSTAH and to stress our longstanding position that peace will only be achieved if we simultaneously address issues of security, national reconciliation, and development with social justice. We call upon all delegations in the Committee to support MINUSTAH to provide for the urgent and immediate needs of Haiti.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.