

Norwegian statement, GA 5th committee, Agenda Item 161, Financing Peacekeeping Missions – UNMISS

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Mr Chairman,

Thank you to the representatives of the UN Secretariat, ACABQ and the OIOS for their introductions.

Before making some remarks specific to the operation in South Sudan, allow me to pay tribute to the UN staff serving in extremely challenging situations. When we celebrate the successes and advances of UN peacekeeping, we should remember the personal efforts that lie behind this development.

It is less than a year since we stood together outside this building, celebrating the new flag of South Sudan being raised on a UN flagpole. The numerous challenges and opportunities we see in this new country, also show up as challenges in the new peacekeeping operation.

In scrutinising the UNMISS budget, we believe it is important to keep in mind that UNMISS is still in its early phase. As we know, the situation in the country is also dynamic – and many of the needs that will occur, can not be planned for, except by planning for adequate managerial flexibility.

South Sudan has unique challenges when it comes to mobility and infrastructure. In our view, ensuring the mobility of the Mission's personnel is essential to fully implementing the mandate – and the availability of necessary assets is key to ensuring mobility. We are concerned about the negative impact of the absence of critical assets, including military helicopters.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to underline the importance of the County Support Bases structure, and believe this is another key element in ensuring the protection of civilians – a central aspect of the Mission's mandate. The County Support Base structure is a new concept that can become a useful model for other missions as well.

We would also like to support the emphasis on capacity building in the Mission's planning. Capacity building, including South-South cooperation to build up central state functions, will be key to ensuring the long term peacebuilding of South Sudan.

Thank you