

Statement of the Chairman of the ACABQ on the financing of:

**The United Nations United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)
The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)
The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
The African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)
The United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA)**

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the reports of the Advisory Committee on performance and/or budget reports of the Secretary-General for UNISFA, UNOCI, UNFICYP, MONUSCO, MINUSTAH, UNMIK, UNMIL, UNMISS, UNAMID and UNSOA (A/66/718/Add.12, 18, 9, 14, 11, 7, 13, 17, 16 and 19).

The Committee's report on cross-cutting issues, contained in document A/66/718, was introduced yesterday. I would like to highlight the Committee's recommendation that a review of vehicle and information technology equipment holdings should be conducted for all missions, with a view to aligning holdings with the standard ratios established by the Department of Field Support, taking into account the mandate, complexities, size and specificities of each operation.

1. **UNISFA** **United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei**

Report of the Secretary-General: A/66/722;

Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.12

With respect to the proposed budget of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$1 million under information technology resources, noting that the proposed resources cover the requirement for a fully staffed mission and do not take into account delayed deployment or vacancy factors.

The Committee is recommending approval of the 71 new posts proposed. It notes that the proposed budget reflects the expanded mandate of the mission under Security Council resolution 2024 (2011), including additional tasks in support of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, and an expanded area of operations.

The Committee notes the high vacancy levels in 2011/12 for all categories of staff and urges the Secretary-General to fill vacant posts as soon as possible. It also notes with concern that as at 5 March 2012, the cash position of the Mission was \$7.8 million, representing a shortfall of \$26.7 million as compared to the requirement for a three-month operating cash reserve of \$34.5 million.

2. UNOCI **United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire**

*Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/616 and 753;
Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.18*

With regard to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Advisory Committee considers that the proposed vacancy factor of 10 per cent for international posts may not be realistic, and recommends that it be adjusted to 15 per cent. Regarding staffing, the Committee does not object to the functions of the proposed new post of Special Advisor to the SRSG at the P-5 level, but considers that this requirement can be met through the redeployment or reassignment of an approved post, and therefore requests that the Operation review its staffing to identify an existing post for this purpose and to report thereon in the context of the 2013/14 budget submission. The Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal to abolish a total of 213 temporary positions related to the surge following the elections and the post-electoral crisis, and which are no longer required in the 2012/13 period. The Committee recommends the further reduction of 3 of the 10 temporary positions that were approved in the context of the supplementary estimates for UNOCI in the 2011/12 period, proposed to be continued in 2012/13.

Under operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommends that the provision for travel on training be reduced to the level of the appropriation for the 2011/12 period. Regarding the UNOCI disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, the Committee considers that, given the absence of the finalized DDR framework, and that, in the past, the DDR programme had experienced delays, the total amount proposed may not be required during the 2012/13 period, and therefore recommends that the proposed amount should be reduced to \$20 million. The Committee nevertheless encourages the Operation to implement such activities as expeditiously as possible, and, should additional funding be necessary, the Operation should report thereon in the context of the performance report.

The Advisory Committee was informed that the implementation of the recommendations of the assessment of UNOCI contained in the special report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire would result in an overall reduction of the requirements for the 2012/13 period in an estimated amount of \$10.6 million. The Committee expects that the General Assembly will be informed of the financial and administrative implications for the 2012/13 period arising from any decision of the Security Council with respect to the assessment of UNOCI.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the budget performance of the Operation can be found in paragraph 60 of its report.

3. **UNFICYP** **United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus**

*Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/568 and 686;
Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.9*

Turning now to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the Advisory Committee's recommendation against the proposed upward reclassification of the post of Force Commander would entail a reduction of \$22,800 to the proposed budget for 2012/13. An explanation of the Committee's position is contained in paragraphs 23 and 24 of its report.

With regard to the current cash position of UNFICYP, the Advisory Committee reiterates its concern at the persistent precariousness of the Force's financial situation and its potential impact on the timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries. The Committee recalls the repeated calls by the General Assembly for all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter on time, in full and without conditions.

The Committee's report also contains its comments and observations on demining activities, camp maintenance services, construction projects and efficiency gains. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the performance report for the 2010/11 period is contained in paragraph 39 of its report.

4. **MONUSCO** **United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/652 and 723;

Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.14 & Corr.1

With regard to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the Advisory Committee notes that the proposed budget for 2012-2013 does not include provisions for support to the provincial elections in the 2012/13 period, in respect of which MONUSCO will be required to provide technical assistance and support. The Committee therefore expects that MONUSCO will draw from its accumulated experience in providing such support and that it will limit any subsequent request - should one be necessary - for additional resources to support elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the 2012/13 period to the minimum necessary.

Regarding staffing, the Advisory Committee, recalling its previous comments on the importance of the functions performed by the Community Liaison Assistants, and in view of the expanded area of responsibilities envisaged for these personnel in the 2012/13 period, recommends approval of 113 national General Service positions in the Civil Affairs Section to serve as Community Liaison Assistants. The Secretary-General also proposes to reassign 49 national General Service language assistant posts from the support component to the Civil Affairs Section to serve as Community Liaison Assistants. In this regard, Committee expects that any additional requirement for the provision of language assistance to military personnel, should the need arise, will be met from approved resources,

During its consideration of the proposed budget for MONUSCO, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission would continue to require in the 2012/13 period two national posts in Pretoria that had been proposed for abolition, to coordinate medical evacuations with local hospitals in Pretoria. In view of the clarification provided to the Committee, it sees merit in keeping the functions of one of these posts in Pretoria, under general temporary assistance, in the 2012/13 period from within proposed resources, while MONUSCO identifies suitable arrangements in Pretoria for services for medical evacuation.

The Advisory Committee has no objection to the redeployment of 38 posts and positions and related functions to the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

Regarding operational costs, the Advisory Committee regrets that the planning assumptions underpinning integrated Mission headquarters project, which was to be initiated in the 2010/11 period, have had to be revisited, and that the project has been suspended, in spite of the assurances provided to the Committee during its consideration of the MONUSCO budget for 2011/12. The Committee expects that the updated cost-benefit analysis of the integrated Mission headquarters project, as well as a time frame for its implementation, will be submitted, if necessary, in the context of the proposed budget for 2013/14. The Advisory Committee's recommendations concerning the budget performance of the Mission can be found in paragraph 71 of its report.

5. MINUSTAH United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

*Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/658 and 745;
Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.11*

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, which amounts to \$644.4 million.

The Committee takes note of the partial drawdown in the post-earthquake surge requirements for military and civilian personnel and remains of the opinion that the Secretary-General should examine the long-term necessity of maintaining the Santo Domingo Support Office which was established in the aftermath of the earthquake. In that regard, the Committee takes note of the recently completed high-level functional review analysis of the Office and looks forward to the Secretary-General's report on the outcome of the exercise.

With respect to the budget performance report, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee are contained in paragraph 53 of its report.

6. **UNMIK United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo**

Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/577 and 673;

Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.7

With regard to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget for 2012/13 in the amount of \$47 million. It notes however with concern that, as at 13 February 2012, the cash position of the Mission amounted to \$5.1 million, some \$6.1 million short of the three-month operating cash reserve of \$11.2 million.

The Committee was informed that there are two pending death and disability claims, which it urged UNMIK to settle as soon as possible.

On staffing, the proposed budget proposes a reduction of ten posts, including two reassignments. The Committee does not recommend approval of the two reassignments as it is not convinced the posts are required in the offices to which the posts would be reassigned, and considers that the functions could be performed with existing capacity.

7. UNMIL United Nations Mission in Liberia

*Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/602 and 691;
Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.13*

Concerning the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Advisory Committee is recommending approval of the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2012/13. The Committee notes, however, that a technical assessment mission was deployed to Liberia in February in order to analyse various transition reconfiguration strategies for the Mission following the 2011 elections. The Committee expects that the General Assembly will be informed at the earliest opportunity of the financial and administrative implications for the budget period arising from any decision of the Security Council with respect to the technical assessment mission. Should those implications be significant, the Secretary-General should consider submitting a revised budget to cover UNMIL's requirements for the remainder of the 2012/13 financial period.

In its report, the Advisory Committee welcomes the progress made by the Mission towards meeting gender balance targets, as well as the good level of cooperation it maintains with other United Nations entities in the region. In particular, the Committee commends UNMIL for the support it provided to UNOCI during the post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Advisory Committee's report also contains its comments and observations on a number of other issues, including staffing matters, efficiency gains, construction projects and the "Delivering as One" approach. The Committee's recommendation on the performance report for the 2010/11 period is set out in paragraph 54 of its report.

8. UNMISS United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General: A/66/733;

Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.17

As regards the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$126,200 to the proposed budget. The Committee notes with concern that the Mission's cash position, amounting to \$78.7 million, does not cover the three-month operating cash reserve, representing a shortfall of \$44 million.

The Advisory Committee notes that, in the current period, the variance in the projected expenditure from the appropriation is broadly attributed by the Secretary-General to the standardized funding model (SFM) upon which the approved 2011/12 budget for UNMISS was formulated. It also notes that the appropriated levels of resources for the 2011/12 period, which derive from the standardized funding model, do not provide a suitable baseline from which to analyse the impact of variances from the current appropriation or the proposed requirements for the 2012/13 period. The Committee further notes that it is difficult to assess the extent to which the planned outcomes for the current period are being achieved.

Regarding the staffing of the Mission, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposed 16 international and 32 national posts and 54 United Nations Volunteer positions, with the exception of 4 posts in the Mission Support Division.

While a total of 6 posts are proposed for abolition due to the transfer of functions and related staff from the UNMISS Mission Support Division to the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, the Advisory Committee considers that greater efficiencies could be derived from the streamlining and integration of functions in the Mission. The Committee considers that the number of posts proposed for abolition in UNMISS in this context is insignificant, and therefore expects that the Mission will review its requirements across its entire staffing complement with a view to identifying further efficiencies in administrative support attributable to the use of the Regional Service Centre and to report thereon in the context of the 2013/14 budget submission.

9. UNAMID African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

*Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/596 and 695;
Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.16*

The Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$2.3 million under consultants, training and ground transportation in the 2012/13 proposed budget for the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which amounts to some \$1.5 billion.

The Committee takes note of the recently completed review of uniformed personnel and expects that the General Assembly will be informed of any financial and administrative implications of the Security Council's decision with respect to the exercise. The Committee also takes note of the specific circumstances faced by the Operation which have resulted in high vacancy rates, as well as of the slow progress in the implementation of construction and engineering projects.

The Committee's recommendation concerning the budget performance of the Operation in the 2010/11 period are contained in paragraph 78 of its report.

10. UNSOA United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia

*Reports of the Secretary-General: A/66/590 and 685;
Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/718/Add.9*

The Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$321,700 to the 2012/13 proposed budget of the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), which amounts to some \$438 million.

The proposed budget includes a logistical support package for an expanded AMISOM presence of 17,731 troops and formed police units in four sectors in Somalia. The package also includes the reimbursement of contingent owned equipment including force enablers and multipliers, as mandated by the Security Council.

With the exception of four Field Service posts, the Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals.

Under operational costs, the Committee considers the proposed resources for training for travel to be high, and recommends that the amount be reduced by \$100,000. It recommends approval of 40 of the proposed 43 training consultants, because it considers that the prevailing security situation could impact the conduct of all the planned activities.

Mr Chairman,

I thank you for your attention.