



Closing Remarks to the Fifth Committee

Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

24 June 2015

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I wish to express my pleasure for being among you today at the end of a quite laborious session. I have been closely following the negotiations, including through joining you during some of the informal sessions, and I have witnessed myself your hard work and commitment to ensuring that peacekeeping operations are provided with all they need to deliver on their mandates. These efforts are clearly reflected in successfully being able to agree on a Cross-Cutting resolution for the first time in three years. I also wish to thank you for all the support you have given to peacekeeping in general, particularly to the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support.

Despite significant increases in requirements for some missions, the reduction in overall peacekeeping costs for 2015/16, compared to 2014/15, reflects our effort and commitment to pursue efficiency and to focus on priorities, while ensuring that mandate delivery can be maintained. These efforts are reflected in the decisions by the Committee adjusting budget proposals to reduced fuel prices, currency exchange rates, and troop reimbursement levels. We will continue to make every effort to meet the expectations of the membership while utilizing the resources you just approved. But we will also revert to you if additional resources are required due to changes in the assumptions on which you based your decisions.

As I mentioned in my remarks at the beginning of this session, GFSS implementation – which ends in a weeks' time - has brought about many positive changes and helped guide a young DFS in its early years. Some of the efforts are still underway and will continue to evolve as we mainstream a strategic approach to field support into our ongoing work in DFS. We appreciate all the support you have shown during the GFSS period and we fully intend to maintain a strategic dialogue and strong collaboration with you, as also with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, for the

continuous improvement of UN field support. We will fully take into account the observations that you, and other bodies, have raised during the course of this process to ensure the strategy continues to enhance field service delivery. We are committed to ensuring the lessons and good practices established during the GFSS period will continue. I want to take this opportunity to thank you, in particular, for supporting the initiative to strengthen the management of our global supply chain, in order to ensure a more efficient end-to-end approach to sourcing, distribution and oversight across all missions. We are committed to timely delivery of the four pilot projects for supply chain management and, based on those experiences, to bring the initiative to scale in the years to come.

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Shared services will continue to deliver significant efficiencies and economies of scale. We will manage efficiently the remote administrative support to current missions. For example, MINUSMA needs to find an urgent solution to the fact that its remote support from ONUCI will become untenable as that mission draws down.

As for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, your decision to endorse the Secretary-General's proposal to develop a stand-alone budget will improve transparency, accountability and oversight. It will also increase efficiency in budget formulation and execution. This mechanism will ensure the managerial and operational independence of the centre, while also retaining mission ownership and support for the centre through a client board structure.

Finally, Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates, I wish to recall that conduct and discipline remains one of our highest priorities, especially in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and other forms of abuse. We collectively share the responsibility of eliminating it. I am very pleased that the Committee has agreed on a way forward, particularly in relation to the methodology of reporting to the General Assembly.

Congratulations and thank you.