

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

21 May 2015

Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 under sections 5, Peacekeeping operations, 8, Legal affairs, 27, Humanitarian assistance, 29B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, 29C, Office of Human Resources Management, 29D, Office of Central Support Services, 34, Safety and security, and 36, Staff assessment

**Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola
and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response**

(ACABQ report: A/69/903, related report: A/69/842)

Mr Chairman,

Let me start by expressing on behalf of the Advisory Committee, our appreciation for the efforts made to address the crisis caused by the Ebola outbreak. The Committee welcomes the progress made in achieving a decline in the rate of transmission of the disease. The Committee also reiterates its appreciation for the dedicated service and commitment of the personnel of the United Nations system and all other actors engaged in the effort to combat the spread of the Ebola virus disease and to provide assistance to the populations of the affected countries.

Mr Chairman,

The Advisory Committee welcomes the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct a specific lessons learned exercise on UNMEER. Given the unique nature of the Mission, the Advisory Committee considers that it is important to conduct an in-depth review of all the organizational, operational, administrative and planning aspects of UNMEER, and to document lessons learned for the future. In its report, the Committee makes suggestions regarding a number of specific areas which, in its view, should be covered in this context. These include, for instance: the organizational structure of UNMEER and the need for a large number of high-level positions; the efficiency and effectiveness of UNMEER air services; and the acquisition, transportation, distribution and disposal of vehicles; as well as compliance with United Nations Regulations and Rules.

The report of the Advisory Committee also contains recommendations for adjusting the proposed resources for the Mission. In particular, the Committee takes the view that the proposed additional requirements under certain budget sections can be accommodated within the existing appropriation, and is also recommending against approval of certain positions,.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

(ACABQ report: A/69/628/Add.1-3; Reports of the Secretary-General: A/69/363/Add.6-8)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on the proposed resource requirements for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi (MENUM), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Panel of Experts on South Sudan, for which the Secretary-General is seeking additional appropriation of \$94,006,100 net for the biennium 2014-2015.

The Advisory Committee notes that taking into account the additional resources (\$31,501,300) appropriated in resolution A/69/262 and the amount currently requested (\$94,006,100), the total additional resources required would be \$125,507,400, or 11.6 per cent, over the initial approved resources of \$1,081,089,900 for special political missions for 2014-2015 under section 3 of the programme budget.

On the presentation of the resource requirements, the Advisory Committee recalls that in the context of the proposed resource requirements for the 35 special political missions for 2015 (A/69/363 and Corr. 1-3 and Add.1-5), the Secretary-General proposed interim resources for the first six months of 2015 for UNAMA and UNSMIL, representing a technical roll-over of 50 per cent of the levels of projected expenditures for 2014. The Committee reiterates its view that the presentation of both the six-month financing arrangement and 12-month full budget by the Secretary-General entails the consideration by the General Assembly of two proposals pertaining to the same financial period for a given mission, which in turn unnecessarily complicates the budget review process by the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to the proposed 12-month budget for UNSMIL for 2015, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$293,300 to the proposed budget.

Regarding the proposed requirements for consultants, the Advisory Committee believes that some functions could be performed using existing United Nations in-house expertise and therefore recommends a reduction of 5 per cent to the proposed resources in this respect. With respect to official travel outside of the mission area (non-training), the Committee also recommends a reduction of 5 per cent and reiterates that resources for official travel should be utilized judiciously in the interest of the Organization and that the primary consideration in authorizing official travel should be whether direct face-to-face contact is necessary for mandate implementation.

I would like to highlight that the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission's operations on the ground were interrupted as a result of the security situation, and that, during July 2014, UNSMIL relocated its international staff members to Tunisia and to Italy. In January 2015, the United Nations Secretariat conducted a review of the Organization's presence in Libya, recommending that UNSMIL should focus on key priorities and establish a small, defensible and continuous footprint inside Libya. The Committee was informed that the proposed budget for the period 2015 incorporates UNSMIL operations based on these recommendations.

Turning to MENUB, while the Advisory Committee does not object to the establishment of two Security Officer positions (National Professional officer), as proposed by the Secretary-General, it notes that the Secretary-General's resource requirements reflect the security conditions on the ground in Burundi at the time of preparation of the proposal.

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to the proposed 12-month budget for UNAMA for 2015, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$501,900 to the proposed budget.

For the backstopping of UNAMA in the Department of Political Affairs, the Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of one of the six new positions proposed by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, on the proposed resources for the Panel of Experts on South Sudan for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2015, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposed two positions to support the Panel of Experts. The Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one position in the Executive Office of the Department of Political Affairs at this stage. More detailed information is contained in paragraphs 6 to 8 of the report of the Committee (A/69/628/Add.3).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman