

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

6 May 2015

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add.16; related reports: A/69/611; A/69/740)

Budget performance for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

(ACABQ report A/69/839/Add.13; related reports A/69/621 and A/69/743 and Corr.1)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add.7 and Corr.1; related reports: A/69/587; A/69/741)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia

(ACABQ report A/69/839/Add.14; related reports: A/69/592 and A/69/728)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on the budget performances for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budgets for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for UNISFA, UNOCI, UNFICYP and UNSOA.

Allow me to share with you three observations and recommendation of the Advisory Committee that have an impact on the budget proposals of the missions under review today.

The first concerns the cost apportionment relating to applications developed by the OICT and the supply chain management initiative. The Advisory Committee does not concur with the proposal of the Secretary-General to charge the missions for the entirety of those costs and recommends that the proposed resource requirements in the individual missions be reduced accordingly ([A/69/839](#)). This would result in a reduction for the

missions concerned under information technology, consultancy services and official travel. Related upward adjustments are reflected in the Committee's report on the support account ([A/69/860](#)).

The second recommendation is related to the vacancy rates applied for posts at the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, in line with the report of the Advisory Committee on the global field support strategy ([A/69/874](#)). For those missions that contribute posts to the Centre at Entebbe, the Committee recommends that the vacancy rate of 17 per cent be applied to national General Service posts and the vacancy rate of 50 per cent be applied to National Professional Officer posts.

On official travel, the Advisory Committee has identified a number of issues relating to the trips planned for 2015/16, such as multiple trips to the same or close-by destinations and the need for more frequent use of video- and teleconferencing. The Committee is of the view that both consolidation of the travel requirements and minimization of the number of travellers should be made and that alternative means of communication should be used. The Committee, therefore, recommends reductions to the proposed resources for official travel for the missions.

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

Mr. Chairman,

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$1,544,200 to the proposed budget for UNISFA.

Under civilian staffing, the Advisory Committee recommends the abolishment of two P-3 Reporting Officer posts which have been vacant for longer than two years.

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

Mr. Chairman,

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$5,484,600 in the proposed budget for UNOCI for the period 2015/2016. The details of the recommendations are contained in paragraphs 22, 26, 28 and 30 of the report.

On the need for post for a Staff Counsellor, the Advisory Committee recommends a position under general temporary assistance for the functions required, taking into account the temporary nature of the need in the context of the drawdown of the Mission.

United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Mr. Chairman,

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$156,600 to the proposed budget for UNFICYP.

The Advisory Committee took note of the findings of cost-benefit analysis comparing the cost of renting and purchasing vehicles and recommends that the Secretary-General provide an updated version of the analysis including a timetable for a phased acquisition of vehicles in the next budget proposal.

United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA)

Mr. Chairman,

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$8,036,300 to the proposed budget of UNSOA for 2015/16.

The Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one post for Human Resources Officer (Field Service), taking into account the existing capacity (10 posts) and the proposed additional capacity for 2015/16 (1 P-5 and 1 national General Service) in the Human Resources Section of UNSOA.

Concerning the cost-sharing arrangements under air transportation among UNSOA, UNSOM and MINUSCA, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide more detailed information in this regard in the budget proposals for the period 2016/17.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.