

**Statement of the Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**12 May 2015**

**Budget performance for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic**

*(ACABQ report A/69/839/Add.12; related reports A/69/633; A/69/805)*

**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 Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add. 5; related reports: A/69/620; A/69/832; A/69/797)*

**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 Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add. 4; related reports: A/69/619; A/69/785)*

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 of the United Nations Mission in Liberia**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add. 11; related reports: A/69/820; A/69/667; A/69/85)*

**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 Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali)**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add.2; related reports: A/69/784; A/69/593)*

**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 Disengagement Observer Force**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add.1; related reports: A/69/586, A/69/732,)*

**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 Interim Force in Lebanon**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add. 8; related reports: A/69/606; A/69/731)*

**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 Mission in South Sudan**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add.15; related reports: A/69/677; A/69/800)*

**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 African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/839/Add.6, related reports: A/69/673; A/69/808)*

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 the proposed budgets for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for MINUSCA, MONUSCO, MINUSTAH, UNMIL, MINUSMA, UNDOF, UNIFIL, UNMISS, UNAMID

First, 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 one 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 the 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.

As regards 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 consolidation of the travel requirements 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.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA) ([A/69/839/Add.12](#)).

MINUSCA was established by the Security Council as of 10 April 2014. For the performance for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014, the Advisory Committee notes the lack of an analysis of the variances in the performance report of the Secretary-General ([A/69/633](#)). Furthermore, the significant variances between the expenditures and the initial estimates for the period demonstrate that the planning estimates were imprecise. The

Committee, therefore, recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make further efforts to improve the financial planning for future start-up missions.

On the proposed budget for 2015/2016, the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$14,667,100.

Concerning resource requirements arising from Security Council resolution 2212 (2015) of 26 March 2015, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed budget for 2015/16 does not reflect the increased levels in the military and police personnel as authorized by the Council in the latest resolution. Upon enquiry, it was indicated to the Committee that the current budget proposal for 2015/16, nonetheless, provides a valid baseline for the United Nations to continue the establishment of MINUSCA, while it finalises plans to also deploy the increase in uniformed personnel.

Mr Chairman,

Moving to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$7,396,800 to the proposed budget of the Mission for the 2015/16 period.

With regard to the additional resource requirements for the current period, the Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts made by the Mission to proactively reprioritize its resources in order to minimize the extent of the budget shortfall, and encourages the Mission to continue such efforts. Based on the Mission's current and foreseeable cash position till the end of the financial period, and taking into account also the level of the proposed additional requirements, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is no need, at this stage, for an additional appropriation. The Committee is recommending instead that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the level of the additional requirements for the maintenance of the Mission, in addition to the amount already appropriated for the current period. Detailed information on actual expenditures incurred should be provided in the relevant performance report.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the progress made in completing the civilian staffing review, as well as the steps being taken to build national capacity. With regard to the completion of the move from west to east and the reconfiguration of the Mission, the Committee encourages the Mission to continue to monitor the distribution of functions across its two headquarters locations with a view to avoiding any duplication and overlapping of functions. The Committee also makes observations and recommendations on a number of issues, including the review of field offices, the implementation of the Service Delivery and Supply Chain Management pillars, and the Entebbe Support Base.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Advisory Committee's report on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$3,335,300 to the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for 2015/16. Under civilian staffing, the Committee does not object to the ongoing consolidation process of the Mission and recommends abolishing a post which has been vacant for more than two years.

Under the proposed requirements for consultants, the Committee notes that there was an unspent balance as well as existing in-house expertise and therefore recommends a reduction in the requirements. The Committee also recommends a reduction of the requirements for fuel based on the actual average unit costs used.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Advisory Committee has considered the proposed additional requirements for the current financial period to address the situation caused by the Ebola outbreak in Liberia. The Committee took into account the Mission's cash position, both recent and foreseeable as at the end of the financial period, and is of the view that at this stage, additional appropriation is not required to meet the needs of UNMIL. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitment in an amount not to exceed \$9,959,400 for the maintenance of the Mission, in addition to the amount of \$4.3 million approved by the General Assembly, for the current financial period.

For the financial period, 2015/16, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$2,346,300 to the proposed budget. The recommended reductions reflect, inter alia, the updated estimates provided by the Secretary-General of a portion of operational costs, which were lower than the amount proposed in the budget.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the strengthening of the quick-impact projects portfolio and enhanced activities for capacity-building of national staff proposed by UNMIL in view of its planned drawdown. The Committee trusts that in the course of its drawdown, the Mission will make every effort to minimize the adverse impact on the environment caused by its activities.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee would entail a net decrease of \$1,644,000 to the proposed budget for MINUSMA for 2015/16.

Under civilian staffing, the Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of one P-3 Political Affairs Officer, three United Nations Volunteer positions, and one national General Service position.

Under operational costs, the Committee considers that the specific budgetary provisions for unmanned aerial systems were not clearly presented and recalls its view that

there is a need for greater consistency and transparency in the budgeting for these systems in the budget proposals for peacekeeping operations.

Lastly, I would like to highlight that the Advisory Committee was informed that the security situation in the area of operations continues to be highly volatile and MINUSMA currently counts the highest average annual fatality rate of all peacekeeping missions, with 50 fatalities and 176 injuries, as at 24 March 2015. The Advisory Committee expresses deep concern that MINUSMA continues to suffer a high number of fatalities and injuries, and expects that the Secretary-General will make every effort to increase the safety and security of its military and civilian personnel.

Mr. Chairman,

As regards the Advisory Committee's report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee would entail a net decrease of \$40,478 to the proposed budget for UNDOF for 2015/16.

In view of the prevailing security situation in the area of operations and the Force's rapid withdrawal from Camp Faouar, the Advisory Committee commends the Force's capacity to respond flexibly and adjust its operations in challenging circumstances, while ensuring the safety and security of its military and civilian staff.

I would like to highlight, however, an inventory discrepancy in the number of armoured vehicles transferred from the United Nations Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS) to UNDOF. As such vehicles have a high acquisition value, the Committee expects the Secretary-General to provide an update on their status to the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the proposed budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$3,493,900 to the proposed budget for 2015/16.

The Committee notes that the most significant staffing change relates to the proposed abolishment of 48 engineering posts, with the related functions of these posts to be outsourced. The Committee was informed that this proposal arose from a civilian staffing review completed in September 2013. A subsequent assessment indicated that changes in security and economic conditions in Lebanon might affect the ability of potential vendors to supply the required services. According to the Secretary-General, alternatives were being developed to enable the mission to maintain its operations within the proposed staffing level. The Committee expects that information relating to these alternatives will be made available to the General Assembly so that the Assembly can have the necessary assurance that any endorsement of the proposed staffing levels will not have a detrimental effect on the provision of essential maintenance support services.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$14,551,700 to the proposed budget for UNMISS. On staffing, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the D-1 Deputy Director in the Human Rights Division, and recommends the abolishment of 26 posts which have been vacant for two years or longer.

Under ground transportation, the Advisory Committee recommends that resources related to acquisition of vehicles be kept at the same level as the apportionment for 2014/15. The Committee also recommends reductions under air transportation, in relation to the deployment of an unmanned aerial system as well as petrol, oil and lubricants.

Mr. Chairman,

Concerning the Advisory Committee's report of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$2,249,300 to the proposed budget for UNAMID.

Under operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction in UNAMID's proposed budget for the rental of office space and facilities in the RSCE for the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services, with these costs to be reflected in the Support Account.

Under medical, 1, the Committee notes that UNAMID's proposed budget includes provisions for direct reimbursement to troop-contributing countries for yellow fever vaccination. Considering the terms of General Assembly resolution 68/281 regarding a single rate of reimbursement, the General Assembly may wish to clarify its position in this regard. Should the General Assembly decide that the reimbursement of yellow fever vaccinations is included within the single rate of reimbursement, the decision would entail a reduction in UNAMID's budget proposal.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.