



**Introductory remarks by Ms. Lisa Buttenheim
Assistant-Secretary-General for Field Support**

Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

8 May 2017

Mme. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you today to introduce the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/802) on the “*Triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment*”.

As you are aware, the Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) system was adopted by the United Nations through the General Assembly resolution 50/222 of 11 April 1996 to simplify the means by which countries are reimbursed for providing equipment and self-sustainment support services to formed military and police contingents deployed to peacekeeping missions. The associated rates of reimbursement, procedures, and the standards are reviewed every three years by a working group which makes recommendations to the General Assembly. Once approved, the recommendations are reflected in the Manual on "Policies and Procedures Concerning the Reimbursement and Control of COE of Troop/Police Contributors Participating in Peacekeeping Missions", or the COE Manual.

This year, the COE Working Group held its meetings in New York from 16 to 27 January 2017, where about 330 delegates from 76 countries participated and discussed 104 issue papers, along with national cost data submitted by 45 countries. Details on the deliberations and the outcomes of the meetings are reflected in the Working Group’s report (A/C.5/71/20)

In addition to the agreement to recommend a net increase in rates of reimbursement for both COE and self-sustainment by 0.6 percent (costing approximately \$5.5 million annually), the 2017 COE Working Group has been able to agree on 26 other recommendations which are

included in the report of the Working Group. The total financial implications of the agreed recommendations amount to approximately \$13.6 million.

These recommendations included specific steps to acknowledge contemporary peacekeeping needs and challenges, such as expanding criteria and thresholds for eligibility for UN reimbursement for equipment lost or damaged in hostile action and introduction of reimbursement for the maintenance of equipment committed to the Rapid Deployment Level of the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS).

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The triennial meeting of the Working Group represents a timely opportunity to consider the challenges to peacekeeping and the associated updates needed to both the inclusions in the COE framework and the manner in which contingent-owned equipment is managed. From the reports, you can see that the Working Group and the general membership of the peacekeeping community are cognizant of the need to focus on capability, quality and performance. Many of the recommendations were agreed with a view to introducing internationally recognized environmental and health standards; improving the ability to deploy for more mobile operations and attempting to strike a balance between the fairness of the reimbursement system and the affordability of UN peacekeeping.

The unprecedented number of issue papers submitted for consideration this year, which was more than double the number submitted to the 2014 and 2011 Working Groups, reflected growing recognition of the importance of the role of the Working Group and its outcomes, as well as the increasing challenges facing both peacekeeping operations and peacekeepers in the field alike. In addition, the persistence and hard work of all participants allowed for swiftly focusing on key issues and achieving such good results within the short allocated time.

Mme. Chairperson

My colleagues and I stand ready to respond to any questions that you may have regarding this report.

I thank you.