

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget
performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and budget for the period
from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/809)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
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9 May 2017

Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's overview report on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, which contains the budget performance for 2015/16 and the budget for 2017/18 as listed in today's journal.
2. Following the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, endorsed by the General Assembly, the present report focuses on new developments and provides analytical information on main cost drivers as well as cross-cutting initiatives. The report also provides responses on the implementation of decisions and requests contained in General Assembly resolution 70/286.

Budget performance for 2015/16

3. In 2015/16, \$8.02 billion was spent in peacekeeping operations. That includes all missions, the Global Service Centre, and the support account. Compared to the approved budget of \$8.30 billion, it shows an overall implementation rate of 96.6 per cent. The unencumbered balance of \$279 million in 2015/16 reflects mainly: (a) the non-deployment of helicopters, lower fuel prices, and higher vacancy rates for international staff in UNAMID (Darfur); (b) the gradual

drawdown of UNOCI (Côte d'Ivoire); (c) higher deductions for absent or non-functional contingent-owned equipment in UNMISS (South Sudan) and MONUSCO (in the Democratic Republic of the Congo); (d) the faster-than-planned drawdown in UNMIL (Liberia); and (e) the postponement of the elections and ongoing consolidation in MINUSTAH (Haiti).

4. During that period, a number of Security Council decisions had a significant impact on the mandates of peacekeeping operations, in particular the strengthening of MINUSMA (Mali), MINUSCA (Central African Republic) and UNMISS (South Sudan); as well as the expansion of UNSOA (Somalia), as the Council decided that UNSOA should bear the name of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) with an expanded logistical support package.

Madam Chair,

Budget proposals for 2017/18

5. During 2017/18, the focus of peacekeeping will remain on Africa and the Middle East. The regional, political, operational and security environments of missions in those areas are expected to remain difficult and volatile, with a sustained need for high levels of deployment.

6. The resources proposed for peacekeeping operations for 2017/18, including the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, the Global Service Centre and the support account, amount to \$7.97 billion, an increase of 1.0 per cent (\$82.7 million) over 2016/17.

7. The level for 2017/18 reflects increases in the Military and Police personnel costs offset in part by reductions in Operational and Civilian personnel costs.

8. I would like to highlight some of the areas of the increased requirements for Military and Police personnel, which include the reinforcements or higher levels of deployment in UNMISS, MINUSMA and UNISFA, mandated reimbursements for self-sustainment in UNSOS, and most notably the increase in the rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries starting from 1 July 2017 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/281.

9. The overall increase is offset in part by the final closure of UNOCI by June 2017, the drawdown and planned closure of UNMIL by 30 June 2018, the continued consolidation of MINUSTAH (Haiti) and, to a lesser extent, the reconfiguration and streamlining of operations in UNAMID. Budget proposals were formulated in accordance with legislative mandates, and as the Committee is aware, most recently, the Security Council mandated the closure of MINUSTAH and the establishment of a follow-on mission in October 2017, which will reduce overall resource requirements further still.

10. The United Nations Secretariat-wide initiatives geared towards improving the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization including its peacekeeping operations, such as Umoja, the supply chain management initiative and the global service delivery initiative, will continue and resources for their successful development and implementation will be required.

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.