

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

**Budget performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period**  
**from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/71/726 and Add.1)**

**Budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period**  
**from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/806)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by  
Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

11 May 2017

Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations under agenda item 149 as listed in today's journal.
2. The support account encompasses 14 offices and departments throughout the United Nations Secretariat that come together to backstop approximately 160,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 15 missions (and 14 missions expected in 2017/18) throughout the globe.

2015/16 Budget Performance

3. In 2015/16, the Secretariat supported field missions in challenging environments. Allow me to highlight some of the key areas:
  - 1) We supported the strengthening of MINUSMA (Mali), MINUSCA (Central African Republic) and UNMISS (South Sudan); the gradual drawdown of UNOCI (Côte

d'Ivoire); and the streamlining and consolidation of MINUSTAH (Haiti) and UNMIL (Liberia);

- 2) We deployed Umoja Cluster 4 in November 2015, successfully integrated the functionalities of Umoja extension 1 for international staff in peacekeeping, such as employee self-service, travel, payroll and payments processing, and provided service delivery functionality in all peacekeeping missions;
- 3) As part of cluster 4, payment processing to Member States for contingent-owned equipment as well as troop and police reimbursement was also implemented through Umoja. This is the single largest payment processed by the United Nations for an average annual amount of \$2.3 billion, which is 28 per cent of the total expenditure of peacekeeping operations;
- 4) We intensified our efforts to respond to the surge in the number of reports of sexual exploitation and abuse cases made against UN peacekeeping troops with expanded investigation. In fact, OIOS deployed personnel to investigate 60 reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and interviewed some 215 victims;
- 5) We introduced measures to strengthen the Organization's response to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, including suspension of the allowance payments to personnel alleged to have engaged in SEA.

In addition Madam Chair,

- 6) We automated the preparation of IPSAS-compliant financial statements and associated notes for peacekeeping missions using Umoja;
- 7) In the area of human resources, the first managed mobility exercise and vacancy exercise for the Political, Peace and Humanitarian Network (POLNET) were undertaken;
- 8) Standing administrative measures for crisis response and mission start-up were finalized in March 2016, including temporary flexible arrangements, such as emergency delegations and cooperation with other United Nations entities; and
- 9) Several strategic enterprise solutions were implemented to deliver efficiencies in key areas of field operations, including the electronic fuel management system.

4. In the performance of those support functions the support account incurred expenditures of \$335.9 million, an implementation rate of 99.8 per cent.

Madam Chair,

2017/18 Budget Proposals

5. Based on the request of the General Assembly to review the level of the support account, the Chef de Cabinet met with the heads of departments and offices for an efficient coordination of emerging requirements under the support account, and reprioritization of existing resources to best meet the needs in the field.

6. After careful analysis and extensive discussions, and through reprioritization and efficiency measures, I am pleased to inform you that the current level of support account is contained at 4.17 per cent of the peacekeeping budget (excluding organizational initiatives costs), similar to the level of 2016/17.

7. The proposed 2017/18 budget for the support account is estimated at a total of \$339.5 million when taking into account resources for organizational initiatives as approved by the General Assembly. The proposed budget reflects realignment of activities towards priority areas. It includes change initiatives, such as restructuring of the Office of Operations in DPKO, and the Logistics Support Division in DFS. The reorganization in the Logistics Support Division is in line with the roll out of the first phase of Umoja supply chain functionality in the field which will replace the Galileo system and enhance the management of inventory, as well as property, plant and equipment.

8. The Secretariat has made efforts to streamline resource requirements, with a net decrease of 9 posts and positions compared with 2016/17, as well as reducing operational costs in certain areas. Increases are mainly driven by adjustments in the non-discretionary post resources as well as unavoidable increases in other costs, such as after-service health insurance requirements.

9. In summary, with the exception of non-discretionary increases such as those resulting from the computation of salaries and the peacekeeping share of contributions to Organizational

initiatives as approved by the General Assembly, the support account remains within the current approved level of resources, following your previous guidance and our combined efforts to reprioritize activities and realize efficiency gains.

Madam Chair,

10. One of my main concerns in managing the support account is to balance the challenges inherent in backstopping a volatile peacekeeping environment with the limited resources we have to react to and manage those challenges.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.