

**Statement of the Chairman of the  
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**1 May 2017**

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)**

(ACABQ report A/71/836/Add.7, related reports A/71/580 and A/71/763)

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)**

(ACABQ report: A/71/836/Add.2, related reports A/71/631 and A/71/781)

**Budget performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and Proposed budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (UNIFIL)**

(ACABQ report A/71/836/Add.5, related reports A/71/640; A/71/765 & Corr.1)

**Budget performance for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)**

(ACABQ report A/71/836/Add.1, related reports A/71/639 and A/71/760 and Corr.1)

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on UNFICYP, UNDOF, UNIFIL and MINURSO.

With respect to UNFICYP, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$459,800 to the Secretary-General's proposal contained in the report on UNFICYP for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/763).

The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/273, endorsed its recommendation to conduct a civilian staffing review prior to the submission of UNFICYP's budget for the 2017/18 period, and notes that the review was not completed. The Committee recommends the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to complete a civilian staffing review of UNFICYP, prior to the submission of the mission's proposed 2018/19 budget.

Concerning the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2017/18, the Committee notes the 2.2 per cent proposed increase and recommends reductions in the number of proposed new posts, as well as reductions under air travel and ground transportation.

Madam Chairperson,

Turning now to UNDOF, the Advisory Committee notes that during the period 2017/18, the main priority of UNDOF will be the renovation and return to Camp Faouar on the Bravo side. The Committee recommends slight reductions for official travel, and for facilities and infrastructure and also recommends higher vacancy rates for civilian personnel to reflect the Mission's operational realities.

Madam Chairperson,

Continuing with the proposed budget of UNIFIL for 2017/18, the Advisory Committee is recommending a number of reductions.

With regard to posts, the Advisory Committee is recommending abolishment of eight of the nineteen posts proposed for reassignment. It was of the view that insufficient justification for the new functions of those eight posts was provided. The Committee is also recommending an adjustment to the vacancy rate for international staff. It considers that the proposed rate of 3.0 per cent is not realistic, and recommends that a rate of 5.5 per cent be applied to estimate the requirements for international staff in the 2017/18 period.

Under operational costs, the Advisory Committee is recommending a reduction of 20 per cent to the proposed resources for official travel. The Committee also recommends against approval of the proposed increase of 106,497 litres of generator fuel under facilities and infrastructure.

Madam Chairperson,

Lastly, on MINURSO and its proposed budget for 2017/2018, the Advisory Committee recommends in its report (A/71/836/Add.1) a reduction of \$1,685,600 to the proposal of the Secretary-General.

Concerning the proposed transfer of functions to the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE), the Committee recommends against the proposed abolishment of eight posts in the Finance and Budget Section and the Human Resources Section of MINURSO for 2017/18. The Committee further recommends that the eight posts be included in the budget for the Mission. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to submit for the consideration of the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-second session a report on the global service delivery model containing a comprehensive and fully developed proposal.

Regarding the extended absence of 17 staff from the Mission on special leave with full pay since late March 2016, the Committee considers that this issue needs to be urgently addressed to minimize the

cost accruing to the Organization from payments of salaries to staff when services are not rendered. It notes with concern the lack of concerted effort to temporarily assign those staff members to other operations. The Committee strongly disapproves of such practice. The Committee expects that an update will be provided to the General Assembly now.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.