

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 150
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 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/661 and Add.1)

Budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period
from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/793)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

13 May 2019

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 150** as listed in today's journal.
2. The support account encompasses 14 offices and departments throughout the United Nations Secretariat that backstop approximately 130,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 13 peacekeeping operations.

2017/18 Budget Performance

3. Allow me, Madam Chair, to highlight some of the key areas in 2017/18:
 - a. The Secretariat held a series of consultations with Member States and international and regional organizations for the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, launched in March 2018;

- b. Extensive consultations were held with field missions and Member States on key organizational initiatives, including management reform and restructuring of the peace and security pillar;
- c. Actions to improve the safety and security in the field were implemented following the issuance of the report of Lieutenant General Santos Cruz;
- d. The period saw the first full year of operation of UNOAU in its new structure, enhancing cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security matters;
- e. The new arrangement under the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/296, was established;
- f. A comprehensive review of the support account was undertaken and presented to the General Assembly;
- g. The United Nations Secretariat Safety and Security Integration Project was completed, bringing all Secretariat safety and security staff under a common framework;
- h. Investigations into sexual exploitation and abuse were strengthened, and policies were developed to prevent such occurrences by civilian staff;
- i. With the replacement of Galileo by Umoja, the asset accounting systems across the Organization are now harmonized into a single IPSAS-compliant financial system; and the Secretariat made significant progress in the design, development and deployment of Umoja Extension 2;
- j. Extensive support was provided to peacekeeping operations, including in the closure of UNMIL and the transition of MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH.

4. In the performance of those support functions, the support account incurred expenditures of \$325.8 million, which was an implementation rate of 100 per cent.

2019/20 Budget Proposals

Madam Chair,

5. Allow me now to turn to the proposal for 2019/20. At the outset, let me mention that in keeping with General Assembly resolution 71/295, the presentation of the budget report

continues to be improved to highlight strategic and changing elements, and data has been streamlined with new tables and graphs to facilitate review.

6. The budget report presents proposals for a total amount of \$380.8 million, including peacekeeping contributions to Secretariat-wide initiatives, reflecting an increase of \$56.1 million compared with authorized resources for the 2018/19 period.

7. Proposed resources for the core requirements of the support account are estimated at \$314.4 million, representing an increase of \$24.6 million. The increase principally results from technical adjustments to budgetary salary parameters and lower average vacancy factors for posts approved by the General Assembly in the 2018/19 period. Proposed resources also include an exceptionally brought-forward provision for the after-service health insurance (ASHI); the periodic requirements for the triennial working group on contingent-owned equipment; 7 new posts and positions in respect of DPO, DSS and OHCHR and additional operational resources amounting to \$2.9 million.

8. Proposed resources for Secretariat-wide initiatives are estimated at \$66.3 million, representing an increase of \$31.5 million, compared with the approved resources for 2018/19. The increase includes the transfer of Umoja maintenance and support costs for peacekeeping operations previously budgeted in UNLB and the peacekeeping share of the proposed global shared service centres, which the General Assembly by its decision 73/547 B deferred until its seventy-fourth session.

Madam Chair,

9. The Secretariat is mindful of the level of the support account. Taking into account the decision already made by this Assembly on the global service delivery model, the increase in the level of the support account for the 2019/20 period is principally a combination of the technical adjustments and the share of peacekeeping operations' to Secretariat-wide initiatives, reflecting more accurately the true cost of supporting peacekeeping operations in this complex environment.

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