

Statement by the delegation of Brazil on agenda item 150: Administrative and budgetary aspects of financing United Nations peacekeeping operations: Support Account, at the second resumed part of the seventy-third session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

New York, 13 May 2019.

Madam Chair,

My delegation would like to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary-General for Program Planning, Budget and Finance, for presenting report A/73/793.

My delegation would also like to thank Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for presenting report A/73/849.

Brazil associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

The support account for peacekeeping operations is an integral part of the peace and security architecture of the Secretariat. It is key to ensuring full and effective implementation of all mandated policies, programs, and activities in this area. Adequate backstopping at headquarters is critical to support the troops, police and civilian staff in the field.

However, as recalled by resolutions 69/308 and 70/287, the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the mandate, number, size and complexity of peacekeeping operations.

My delegation notes with concern that, while the overall budget proposal for 2019/2020 represents a reduction of 5% when compared to the overall level of 2018/2019, proposed resources for the support account represent an increase 17% in the upcoming period.

The United Nations sends the wrong message when it proposes harsh cuts to operations deployed in remote and high-risk areas but increases resources for its staff headquartered in New York, Geneva and elsewhere.

Madam Chair,

The Secretary-General has underlined, in report A/72/492/Add.2, that the support account needs to be adapted for the new structures put in place with management reform. The newly established departments of Operational Support and Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance serve the entire Secretariat, not only peacekeeping operations.

This “whole-of-the-Secretariat” paradigm is why the Secretary-General has committed to submit, one year from now and based on his initial experience, a proposal for a “clear and consistent” approach to financing the activities of both departments from the support account.

It would have been desirable to see preliminary findings of this assessment in the current report. In the informal consultations, my delegation will seek clarifications of the discernible impact thus far of management reform on the use of support account resources.

Madam Chair,

Brazil is firmly convinced that no approach to the support account can be ultimately clear and consistent without including a serious discussion of the funding and backstopping of special political missions.

My delegation recalls, in this connection, resolution 73/279 (Sect. XIV, para. 3), which affirms the critical role played by special political missions in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Brazil trusts the Secretary-General’s report in the second resumed part of the 74th session will not be another missed opportunity to review the arrangements for the funding and backstopping of special political missions.

Thank you, Madam Chair.