

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

8 May 2019

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.11; Related reports: A/73/610, A/73/742)

Budget performance for the period from 16 October 2017 to 30 June 2018 and financial arrangements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019 for the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.6; Related reports: A/73/641, A/73/748)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.7; Related reports: A/73/634, A/73/760)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 for the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS)

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.8; Related reports: A/73/611, A/73/762)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.11) on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

As regards the staffing proposals, the Advisory Committee does not recommend the establishment of the Administrative Officer post (P-3) in the regional sector office of Gok Machar.

Regarding operational costs, the Advisory Committee considers that the increased level of requirements for operational costs in 2019/20 is not fully justified. In particular, resource levels proposed under facilities and infrastructure, communications and information technology, consultants and ground transportation, are not fully justified.

The Committee also points out that the Mission has historically experienced difficulties in carrying out construction and maintenance projects as planned. It would not be realistic to assume that the full scope of construction projects planned for 2019/20 will proceed as planned. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of 15 per cent in the additional proposed resource requirements for operational costs.

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.6) on the budget performance for the period from 16 October 2017 to 30 June 2018 and the financial

arrangements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019 for the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

In his note dated 15 February 2019, the Secretary-General requested to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$51,850,100 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019. Then the Security Council in its resolution 2466 (2019) of 12 April 2019, decided to extend the mandate of MINUJUSTH for a final period of six months until 15 October 2019. The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will inform the General Assembly of the implications of the Security Council's decision, on the proposed deployment of United Nations police and government-provided personnel through 31 December 2019.

In terms of operational costs, the Committee considers that the increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure should be better justified, and that additional information on the requirement for the engagement of individual contractors be provided to the General Assembly.

Concerning the preparation of the Mission closure, the Committee trusts that MINUJUSTH will continue its effort to assist staff members in finding new employment opportunities and that the experience gained in the recent liquidation of other Missions will provide an opportunity for establishing best practice and institutionalizing lessons learned.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$50,950,100 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019.

Madam Chair,

I am now pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.7) on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

With regard to the past and current periods, the Committee notes with concern the high number of casualties and pending death and disabilities claims related to MINUSMA and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to undertake additional efforts to address the backlog of these claims.

With respect to the staffing proposal for the coming period, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of a Strategic Planning Officer (P-4) and a Business Intelligence Assistant (national General Service) post.

Concerning operational costs, the Committee recommends a reduction of \$2 million to the proposed resources for communications and information technology and a reduction of \$1.5 million to the proposed resources for facilities and infrastructure. The Committee also recommends some reductions under travel for training (\$62,300), and ground transportation (\$43,200).

In addition, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include a detailed analysis of the use of unmanned aerial systems including information on their efficiency, cost, and the lessons learned from their utilization in his next report on MINUSMA.

Madam Chair,

In turning now to the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.8) on the performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 for the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), regarding the proposed establishment of 24 posts, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of 22 posts and recommends against the proposed establishment of two posts (1 P-3 and 1 P-4). The Committee recalls that it has shared the view of the Board of Auditors that UNSOS needed to strengthen internal controls and enforce accountability over procurement and contract management. The Committee therefore trusts that the proposed strengthening of the staff capacity in these areas will address the gaps and risks identified in the reviews conducted during 2018. The Committee expects that UNSOS will provide responsive and effective field support to its clients and strengthen its accountability and efficiency in the management of resources and finances.

The Advisory Committee notes the differences in the total number of redeployments, reassignments and realignments proposed for 2019/20. The Committee expects that the information will be provided to the General Assembly now and that future budget proposals of UNSOS will contain comprehensive information and clarity with respect to all staffing changes.

The Advisory Committee also expects that information on the evolving operational requirements of UNSOS and the related financial impact will be presented in future budget proposals, such as the evolving role of the Mombasa logistics base of UNSOS.

Thank you, Madam Chair.