

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

13 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 for
the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central
African Republic (MINUSCA)**

(ACABQ report A/73/755/Add.12, Related reports: A/73/654, A/73/772)

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

(ACABQ report: A/73/854, Related report: A/73/707)

**Budget performance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period
from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018
(MINUSTAH)**

(ACABQ report: A/73/856, Related report: A/73/621)

**Budget performance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 July
2017 to 30 June 2018 (UNMIL)**

(ACABQ report: A/73/855, Related report: A/73/692)

**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
Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)**

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.3; Related reports: A/73/614, A/73/734)

**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 Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**

(ACABQ report A/73/755/Add.13; Related reports: A/73/652; A/73/769)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.12) on the budget performance and proposed budget for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

With respect to the proposed budget for 2019/20 for MINUSCA, the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$8.3 million to the proposal of the Secretary-General.

Concerning the proposed establishment of 42 posts and positions for 2019/20, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of 34 of them. The Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of 8 posts and positions (2 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 FS, 2 UNV and 1 NGS), taking into account the existing and proposed capacities of the Mission.

Concerning resources proposed for operational costs, the Advisory Committee notes a pattern of significant underexpenditures under operational costs, as observed by the Board of Auditors, even after sizable redeployments from group III. The Committee further notes that for several objects of expenditure, resources for 2019/20 continue to be proposed at the levels similar to or higher than those of the prior periods, even though considerable underexpenditure was recorded in 2017/18 and for the first eight months of 2018/19. The Committee is therefore recommending adjustments to the resources proposed under operational costs for 2019/20 including contractors and consulting services, official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, communication and information technology and other supplies, services and equipment.

The Advisory Committee requested an update on the implementation of the environmental strategy since the information provided during its consideration of the proposed budget for 2018/19 (see [A/72/789/Add.8](#), para. 33). The Committee was informed, inter alia, that the Mission continues to: (a) implement a mission-wide environmental action plan and recorded a provisional score of 59/100 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2018, representing an increase of 16 points in comparison with the score of 43/100 reported for the 2017/18 period; and (b) implement environmental actions such as the installation of wastewater treatment facilities, the synchronization of generators, the installation of solar street lights and photovoltaic systems and the conduct of environmental inspections to monitor environmental issues at various mission locations. The Advisory Committee encourages MINUSCA to continue to implement the environmental strategy and make further efforts to reduce its overall environmental footprint.

Regarding gender balance the Advisory Committee notes the overall low level of female representation, in particular among national staff, and encourages the Mission to intensify its efforts to achieve gender balance among its civilian personnel.

Madam Chair,

I am now pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/854) on the Budget Performance and Proposed Budget of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

On the financing of UNOCI, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General. In its report, the Committee also makes observations on the liquidation process and the disposal of assets. The Committee is of the view that given the increased risks for loss, theft and fraud during the liquidation process, future mission liquidation plans should contain risk assessment and mitigation measures. Regarding asset disposal, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in future reports disaggregated information for assets disposed of before and after the state of liquidation period.

Madam Chair,

Turning now to the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/856) on the budget performance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance, as well as other revenue and adjustments, be credited to Member States. The Advisory Committee also comments on certain items of expenditure, including for ground transportation and communications, and considers that more information for justification should be provided to the General Assembly.

Madam Chair,

Regarding the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/855) on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly defer until consideration of the final performance report a decision on the treatment of the unencumbered balance and other revenue. Noting the over-expenditure under several budget lines, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request

the Secretary-General to ensure that relevant departments and support structures are involved with the monitoring and oversight of the liquidation process in missions from an early stage. The Committee also makes other observations on lessons learned, capacity-building programmes and environmental matters.

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.3) on the budget performance and proposed budget of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

The Advisory Committee recommends reductions in the amount of \$182,600 to the proposed resources for 2019/20 under official travel, facilities and infrastructure, and ground transportation. The Committee stresses its continuing concern at the low rate of compliance with the advance purchase policy for air travel and reiterates that stronger efforts are required in that respect.

The Secretary-General indicates that the return to the Bravo side will be UNDOF's priority for 2019/20 and, in that connection, proposes confidence-building measures through the implementation of new quick-impact projects. The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving information on these projects in the context of the next budget report.

Regarding gender balance the Advisory Committee notes the overall low level of female representation, in particular among national staff, and encourages the Mission to intensify its efforts to achieve gender balance among its civilian personnel.

Finally, Madam Chair, I would like to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/755/Add.13) on the budget performance and proposed budget of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The Advisory Committee is of the view that the

proposed resources for several objects of expenditure under operational costs may be overly optimistic. It is therefore recommending an overall reduction of 20 percent of the proposed increase for operational costs.

With regard to the proposed conversion of 42 temporary assistance positions, the Advisory Committee notes that most of the posts have been encumbered for less than 3 years, therefore considers the proposal to be premature. The Committee also recommends against one UNV position for an Administrative Assistant in the Engineering Section.

Thank you, Madam Chair.