

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

6 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 Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.5; Related reports: A/73/615 and A/73/738)

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 Administration Mission in Kosovo

(ACABQ report: A/73/755/Add.4; Related reports: A/73/613 and A/73/733)

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 Interim Force in Lebanon

(ACABQ report A/73/755/Add.2; Related reports: A/73/627 and A/73/735)

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

(ACABQ report A/73/755/Add.1; Related reports: A/73/617 and A/73/737)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, and financing for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

(ACABQ report A/73/755/Add.10; Related reports: A/73/653 and A/73/785)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the 2017/18 period and proposed budget for the 2019/20 period of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$125,400 to the Secretary-General's proposed budget.

Under civilian personnel, the Committee recommends against the proposed upward reclassification of one P-3 post. Under operational costs, the Committee recommends reductions under ground transportation, consultants and training. Regarding ground transportation, the Committee trusts that UNFICYP will make efforts to align the number of its vehicles to the prescribed standard ratios and will report thereon in the next budget submission. The Committee's recommendations on the actions to be taken by the General Assembly for UNFICYP are set out in section V of its report.

The Committee welcomes the environmental initiatives undertaken by UNFICYP and commends the Mission for having achieved a 50/50 gender balance among its international staff.

Madam Chair,

I am now pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report 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 Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

With regard to the request for resources related to the proposed budget, the Advisory Committee reiterates its concern regarding the continuing deterioration of the cash position of the Mission.

Madam Chair,

I will now turn to the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/755/Add.2) 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 Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

In terms of staffing, the Advisory Committee notes that the Mission has already three senior officials at the D-2 level, and consequently recommends against the proposed establishment of the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) post.

With regard to the operational costs, the Committee recommends a reduction of \$300,000 to the proposed resource requirements for facilities and infrastructure, and a reduction of \$50,000 to the proposed resource requirement for communications and information technology.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the effort made by UNIFIL to formulate a comprehensive 5-year asset replacement plan and is of the view that this approach could be

replicated in all missions where a significant proportion of assets are approaching the end of their usable life.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the Advisory Committee reiterates its concern regarding the continuing deterioration of the cash position of the mission. It recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, on time, in full and without condition.

The Advisory Committee is recommending a reduction of 5 per cent for the proposed requirements for petrol, oil and lubricants under ground transportation in view of the planned reduced length of ground patrols and taking into account also the high level of the proposed fuel reserve.

Finally, Madam Chair, I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019 for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

In view of the pattern of expenditure and the current downsizing of UNAMID, the Advisory Committee considers that the proposed level of resources from 1 July to 31 December 2019 may not be fully justified in several areas. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of the proposed resources by 2.5 million US dollars and recommends that the General

Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, in an amount not exceeding 267.4 million US dollars.

The Advisory Committee emphasizes that UNAMID should continue its training activities aimed at the professional and vocational capacity-building of national staff who are affected by the downsizing. In addition, UNAMID should continue with its environmental clean-up measures in anticipation for the eventual closure and hand-over of mission sites.

Concerning the performance report from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance and other income/adjustments of 12.6 million US dollars be credited to Member States.

Thank you, Madam Chair.