

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Agenda item 150

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations
peacekeeping operations**

**Overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations:
2020/21 budget performance reports and 2022/23 budget proposals (A/76/717)**

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/566) and
Budget for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy for the period from
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/730)**

**Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/548) and
Budget proposal for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda for the period
from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/685)**

Introductory statement

by

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12 May 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/76/717), the budget performance report for 2020/21 (A/76/566) and the proposed budget for 2022/23 (A/76/730) for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi; and the budget performance report for 2020/21 (A/76/548) and the proposed budget for 2022/23 (A/76/685) for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, under agenda item 150.

Overview

2. The report before the Committee provides consolidated information on the budgetary performance for the 2020/21 period and the budget proposals for the 2022/23 period. As required under General Assembly resolution 59/296, the report also provides information on trends in the size, composition and funding of the peacekeeping missions, relevant developments in peacekeeping operations, efforts to improve the management and functioning of peacekeeping operations and the management priorities for the coming year. The report also reflects actions taken to implement the provisions in relevant resolutions with regard to related cross cutting issues in peacekeeping operations.

3. The report continues to focus on new developments and policy changes that support the budget proposals. The first section of the report provides an overview of the impact and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the peacekeeping context. Sections II-X continue to be structured in line with the eight areas under the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The latter sections of the report (sections XI-XVII and annexes) highlight important budgetary and financial aspects of peacekeeping, including the impact of decisions and responses to requests of the General Assembly, such as those related to management of cash balances of all active peacekeeping operations pursuant to resolution 73/307.

4. I will now highlight key points on the budget performance for the 2020/21 period and the budget proposals for the 2022/23 period.

2020/21 Budget performance

5. The total approved budget for peacekeeping operations for the 2020/21 period amounted to \$6.8 billion; the overall unencumbered balance of \$211.7 million, 3.2 per cent of the total expenditures, was higher than in the prior four budget periods. This under-expenditure was primarily attributable to three missions, MINUSMA, MONUSCO and UNSOS, which had total under-expenditures of \$178.2 million. These resulted mainly from lower costs for air operations and uniformed personnel due to COVID-19 related restrictions, lower aircraft costs and utilisation, and lower fuel prices. The details of the budget performance by peacekeeping operation and by budget class are presented in Section XIV and Annex II of the present report.

2022/23 Proposed budget

6. Turning to the proposed budgets for the 2022/23 period, the estimates currently stand at \$6.5 billion in total. This represents an increase of \$134.5 million or 2.1 per cent compared to the approved budget for the 2021/22 period, excluding the authority to enter into commitments with respect to UNISFA for the 2021/22 period in the amount of \$67.5 million, approved by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on 23 March 2022. The increase is mainly attributable to three budget proposals, namely \$90.5 million in MINUSMA, \$50.5 million in MINUSCA and \$30.4 million in UNIFIL, partially offset by the decreased requirements of \$78.9 million resulting from the closure of UNAMID.

7. The principal reasons for the variances for each mission are presented in Section XIII and Annex I of the present report. I will highlight the main factors affecting the total resources proposed in the three major categories of expenditures. As outlined below, the increase relates mainly to higher operational costs.

8. **A net \$9.4 million increase in Military and police personnel** is mainly due to: (a) the anticipated higher average deployment of military personnel in line with Security Council resolution 2566 (2021) in MINUSCA; (b) the lower vacancy rate for military contingents, expected improved performance of the contingent owned equipment and higher costs for rations in MINUSMA; and (c) the higher costs for contingent-owned equipment, as well as the higher costs for the mission subsistence allowance for military staff officers based on the revised rates effective 1 January 2022 in UNIFIL.

9. **A net \$31.0 million increase in Civilian personnel** is mainly due to the application of the revised salary scales for international staff effective 1 January 2022, resulting in an increase across peacekeeping operations, most prominently in UNIFIL, UNMISS, MINUSMA and the support account, as well as higher salary costs for national staff.

10. **A net \$92.5 million increase in Operational costs** is mainly due to higher costs under: (a) air operations, resulting from the increase in the number of unmanned aircraft systems in MINUSMA, and the increase in the number of helicopters in MINUSMA and UNISFA; and (b) facilities and infrastructure, stemming from the acquisition of additional safety and security equipment in MINUSMA. In addition, higher anticipated fuel costs are contributing to the increase across missions.

11. In respect of **UNLB**, the proposed budget of \$66.3 million for the maintenance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the 2022/23 period represents an increase of 1.0 per cent (\$0.6 million) compared to the approved resources of \$65.7 million for the 2021/22 period. The budget proposal reflects an increase in operational requirements (\$0.9 million) primarily due to an increase in requirements for communications and information technology (\$0.8 million) to replace obsolete equipment classified as high risk or very high risk, and new contracts for high performance data storage and backup. The increase is offset in part by reduced requirements for civilian personnel (\$0.3 million) due to appreciation of the United States dollar against the euro impacting national staff salary rates and international staff post adjustments.

12. The United Nations Logistics Base will continue to provide services to field missions in the areas of supply chain management, geospatial, information and telecommunications technologies, engineering, environmental management, and specialized programmes such as occupational health and safety. The Base will also deliver services and solutions to other Secretariat entities. It will continue hosting and supporting tenant units, which have direct operational reporting lines to the Departments of Peace Operations and Operational Support.

13. The proposal includes a request for approval of the General Assembly of the official designation of the two sites in Brindisi and Valencia to form the Global Service Centre, replacing the name United Nations Logistics Base currently referring to both centres.

14. The proposed budget includes a report on strategic deployment stocks and a revised concept of operations for strategic deployment stocks, as requested by the General Assembly most recently in its resolutions 74/282 and 75/295. The report and the revised concept are included in annexes III and IV to the present budget report accordingly.

15. In respect of **RSCE**, the proposed budget of \$43.2 million for the maintenance of the Regional Service Centre for the 2022/23 period represents an increase of \$2.9 million compared to the 2021/22 approved budget. The increase is primarily attributable to additional requirements under civilian personnel by \$3.3 million or 10.0 per cent, mainly owing to the proposed reduction of vacancy rates and updated salary rates for international staff; the application of a higher step for National Professional Officers; and an increase for common staff costs for international and national staff. The increased requirements are partly offset by a decrease in operational costs of \$0.4 million or 5.2 per cent, mainly due to lower projected costs for internet connectivity, and the projected reduction in staffing resulting in lower information communications technology support service charges.

16. As regards civilian personnel, the proposed budget for the 2022/23 period presents a staffing complement of 405 posts and positions comprising 133 international staff, 265 national staff and 7 United Nations volunteers. This reflects a net decrease of 19 posts compared to the approved staffing complement in the 2021/22 period of 424 posts and positions. The decrease is due to the proposed abolishment of 19 posts, in line with the scalability model following the closures of UNAMID, UNIOGBIS, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi and the Office of the Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator. In the 2022/23 period, the Centre's clients will include 7 peacekeeping missions, 9 special political missions and the United Nations Office to the African Union. The Centre will continue to deliver efficient and effective support on a range of administrative and financial services to these entities and will also carry out residual liquidation functions for closed peacekeeping and special political missions.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on these items.