

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 150
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations
peacekeeping operations

Budget performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period
from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/596)

Budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period
from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/725)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
Ms. Maria Costa
Director of Finance, on behalf of the Controller

9 May 2022

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the budget performance report for 2020/21 (A/76/596) and the proposed budget for 2022/23 (A/76/725), under agenda item 150.

2020/21 Budget Performance

Mr. Chairman,

1. The budget implementation rate was 99.9 per cent of the approved \$355.7 million. The departments and offices at Headquarters provided continued backstopping support to client missions in the field, leveraging measures put in place in the previous period, despite the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many activities, previously conducted face-to-face, were provided through virtual means to the extent possible. While a number of outputs that required physical visits was unachieved or partially achieved, in some cases

significantly higher or additional outputs were required to achieve the original objective. Rotations of contingents and repatriations of uniformed personnel continued, additional measures were implemented to ensure the health, safety and security of troops, and a system-wide COVID-19 vaccination task force was established.

2. As in the prior financial period, an over-expenditure was recorded under staff costs, arising from (a) the inflation-related adjustments to staff salaries; and (b) rotations of seconded military personnel. The overall increased requirements under post resources were offset by lower expenditures in non-post resources, mainly owing to the COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Under corporate costs, additional expenditures were incurred for Umoja maintenance and support, offset in part by lower expenditures under peacekeeping capability readiness.

2022/23 Budget Proposals

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

3. Allow me now to turn to the proposal for the 2022/23 period. I would like to draw your attention to section A of the present budget report which addresses the review of scalability, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lessons learned, as requested by the General Assembly in its most recent resolution on the support account. The scalability review has again confirmed that resource requirements under the support account are not linked solely to the number of missions or number of personnel deployed across missions, but also to the increased complexity of missions and mandates. During the pandemic, the Secretariat demonstrated the ability to continue to deliver its mandates while maintaining safety of personnel. The pandemic outlined and increased the Organization's dependence on the global ICT infrastructure that enabled remote working. The budget proposal builds on lessons learnt from the pandemic with their effects reflected in the detailed proposed programme plans, number of travels and required resource levels. The proposal also reflects the continued engagement of entities under the support account with the peacekeeping operations, aimed at assessing their needs and meeting their evolving demands, while also considering the need to strengthen core digital technology capacities to increase the Organization's resilience and effectiveness and to contribute to the Secretary-General's Data and New Technologies Strategies.

4. The core budget proposal of \$333.1 million presents an increase of \$15.4 million, primarily due to the impact of salary rate changes, due to inflation, and proposed regularization of 18 posts through transfer from cost recovery mechanism which are currently charged to the budgets of

peacekeeping operations. This is a cost neutral change for \$3.3 million for staff that have been working in Headquarters, backstopping peacekeeping operations for a number of years, as explained in more detail in annex II of the present report. Separately, proposals for three new posts are offset by abolishment of two posts. In addition, a number of redeployments, reassignments and reclassifications are proposed, reflecting the Secretariat's effort to achieve greater efficiencies and rationalization of resources while meeting new and emerging priorities in the field through proposed cost-neutral post actions.

5. Increase in staff costs resulting from inflation-related adjustments to salary parameters and the application of lower average vacancy factors represent an increase of \$9.4 million. I wish to highlight that this increase does not reflect the additional increase in rates promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) in February 2022, which is expected to result in additional requirements of \$2.0 million not included in the present proposal. The remaining increases are related to delayed impact of post actions approved by the General Assembly in the previous period and changes in operational costs mainly attributable to peacekeeping share of After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) and provisions for the triennial Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group to be held in 2023.

6. There is an increase of \$1.8 million under corporate costs, which are estimated at \$40.5 million, mainly due to higher peacekeeping operations' share of the Enterprise Resource Planning solution based on the level approved in the main session of the General Assembly.

7. In summary, the budget proposal before you for the support account reflects an increase in resources for continuing functions. Changes are attributable mainly to: (a) adjustments in technical parameters which are impacted by the world-wide inflation affecting all locations where support account staff are located; (b) the cost-neutral regularization of 18 posts through transfer from peacekeeping operations' budgets; (c) triennial Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment; (d) and an increase in the peacekeeping share of global costs.

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