



General Assembly

Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
14 January 2015

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 20th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 December 2014, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Ružička (Slovakia)
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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14-66934 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (A/69/557 and A/69/641)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Deputy Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/69/557), said that the 2014/15 budget for the Mission had been prepared on the basis of historical deployment trends and expenditure patterns during the start-up phase of past peacekeeping missions, taking into account typical structures for such missions. The proposed financial resources for the maintenance of the Mission, which amounted to \$628.7 million, reflected the resource utilization of previous missions in their first year of operations and were limited to what could realistically be achieved during the 2014/15 period. Provisions were included to support the phased deployment of up to 10,000 military personnel, 1,800 police personnel, 946 civilian personnel and 20 government-provided personnel.

2. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/69/641), said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposed budget in the amount of \$628,724,400 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of the amount of \$253,424,400 previously authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 by General Assembly resolution 68/299. Notwithstanding its overall recommendation, the Advisory Committee made certain observations about the proposed budget and trusted that those issues would be addressed in the context of the budget proposal for 2015/16.

3. Noting the late submission of the Secretary-General's report and related written responses, the Advisory Committee called for more timely submission of the next budget proposal. Furthermore, some parts of the report lacked clarity and contained inconsistencies, which had required clarification. The Advisory Committee trusted that those concerns would be addressed in the next budget submission.

4. With regard to the methodology used to formulate the budget, which represented the first proposed budget for the Mission, the Advisory Committee emphasized that resources requested, even in the first year of operations, should always be sufficiently detailed and justified. On staffing, the Advisory Committee encouraged the Mission to intensify its efforts to recruit staff with the necessary language skills. Lastly, the Advisory Committee highlighted certain matters which it would consider in greater detail in the context of its next report on peacekeeping operations, including the use of the Regional Service Centre and the Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe and the logistics hub of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and quick-impact projects. It would review the issues that it had raised in the context of the proposed budget for the Mission for 2015/16.

5. **Mr. Dosseh** (Togo), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group had serious concerns about the late submission of the documentation related to that important agenda item and urged the Secretary-General to take urgent measures to address the situation, which continued to affect the quality of the Committee's deliberations and decision-making process.

6. He recalled that the Security Council, by its resolution 2149 (2014), had established MINUSCA for an initial period until 30 April 2015. The General Assembly, by its resolution 68/299, had apportioned among Member States the amounts of \$59.6 million for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014 and the amount of \$253.4 million for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 to finance the Secretary-General's commitment authority.

7. The Group had noted the developments related to the delivery of the Mission's mandate since its establishment, including the deployment of uniformed personnel and the transfer of activities from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, as well as the transfer of assets, personnel and infrastructure from the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, which had provided initial operational capacity to the Mission. It further noted that the Mission had identified three key interconnected and mutually reinforcing objectives on which it would base its activities for the 2014/15 period: security and the protection of civilians and

human rights; support for the political process, reconciliation and elections; and the restoration and extension of State authority.

8. The Group noted the information on the financial performance of MINUSCA for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014 and the expenditure for that period in the amount of \$59.2 million, and supported the Secretary-General's proposed budget for the Mission in the amount of \$628.7 million for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. In informal consultations, the Group would seek detailed information on the implementation of planned activities, including those related to facilities and infrastructure, recruitment of national and other personnel, implementation of quick-impact projects, capacity-building and support to the national authorities. Facilities and infrastructure constructed by MINUSCA should be in full compliance with United Nations standards.

9. Lastly, regardless of the methodology used to formulate budget proposals, the process should not lead to resource requirements being underestimated. The Group trusted that the Secretary-General would address the discrepancies observed by the Advisory Committee under several individual budget items in the current proposal and looked forward to receiving updated information on that subject.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.