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Chair: Ms. Bird (Australia)
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Terzi

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 150: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (continued)

Cross-cutting issues (continued) (A/73/755 and A/73/776)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/776), said that the report focused on new developments; policy changes and management challenges facing peacekeeping operations; and cross-cutting initiatives.

2. Concerning budget performance during the 2017/18 period, \$7.4 billion had been spent on peacekeeping operations, inclusive of all missions, the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, and the support account for peacekeeping operations, with an overall budget implementation rate of 99.0 per cent, compared with the approved budget of \$7.5 billion. The unencumbered balance of \$73.4 million for the 2017/18 period mainly reflected underexpenditure in the budgets for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), owing to the delayed deployment of uniformed personnel and the non-deployment of helicopters, and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), owing to the reconfiguration of the air fleet, lower freight costs and lower than anticipated implementation of programmatic activities. The financial performance of peacekeeping operations continued to improve, reflecting stronger management controls and the improved examination of year-end obligations.

3. A number of decisions taken by the Security Council during the 2017/18 period had had a significant impact on the mandates of peacekeeping operations, in particular the increase in the authorized strength of uniformed personnel serving in MINUSCA to improve the protection of civilians; the mandate for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to support the electoral process; the increase in the deployment of uniformed personnel towards the ceiling of 17,000 troops in UNMISS; and the additional measures to enhance the safety and security of personnel

in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

4. During the 2019/20 period, peacekeeping would remain focused on Africa and the Middle East, where the regional, political, operational and security environments of missions were expected to remain difficult and volatile, requiring sustained high levels of deployment and operational and political engagement. The resources proposed for peacekeeping operations for the 2019/20 period, inclusive of all missions, UNSOS, the Logistics Base, the Regional Service Centre and the support account, amounted to \$6.6 billion, representing a decrease of \$382 million (5.4 per cent) compared with the approved resources for 2018/19. The reduced requirements were attributable mainly to the adjustment of the posture of MONUSCO in the post-electoral period and the proposed provision of financing for a six-month period, from 1 July to 31 December 2019, for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), until the Security Council took a decision on the renewal of those missions' mandates. In accordance with established budgetary procedures, the Secretary-General would review the financial implications for the 2019/20 period arising from the final decisions of the Council and would revert to the General Assembly, if necessary.

5. Excluding UNAMID and MINUJUSTH, the budget proposals for continuing peacekeeping missions with full-year budget proposals amounted to \$6.3 billion for the 2019/20 period, which represented an increase of \$133 million (2.2 per cent) compared with the apportionment for the 2018/19 period. The increase related mainly to MINUSMA (\$75 million), UNMISS (\$72 million) and the support account (\$56 million). The increased requirements for MINUSMA and UNMISS reflected mainly higher than expected deployment of uniformed personnel and lower vacancy rates for international staff. The increased requirements for the support account were attributable primarily to higher staff-related costs; the inclusion of Umoja maintenance and support costs, which had previously been reflected in the budget for the Logistics Base; and the peacekeeping-related contribution to the start-up and operationalization of the proposed global shared service centres. In that connection, the General Assembly had decided, by its decision 73/547 B, to defer until its seventy-fourth session consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the global service delivery model for the United Nations Secretariat (A/73/706), in which the establishment of the centres was proposed.

6. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing

the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/755), said that the report contained an analysis of the overall trends in financing and resource requirements for peacekeeping operations, and observations and recommendations concerning planning, budgeting and financial management, delivery of support to missions and other cross-cutting matters.

7. The report also included the Advisory Committee's observations on the latest report of the Board of Auditors on peacekeeping operations (A/73/5 (Vol. II)), in particular regarding asset management, cases of fraud and presumptive fraud, and the recovery and disclosure of the costs of services provided by peacekeeping missions to each other or to external clients. Every effort should be made to improve the rate and timeliness of the implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Board. The Advisory Committee considered certain matters included in the report of the Board to be policy matters under the purview of Member States.

8. The overall resource level for peacekeeping operations and the number of uniformed personnel had decreased every year since the 2014/15 period, while the number of civilian personnel had fallen every year since 2012/13. While the proposed budgetary level for the 12 peacekeeping missions and UNSOS was \$425.3 million lower than the apportionment for the 2018/19 period, the proposed requirements for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the support account in 2019/20 were \$43.1 million higher than the apportionment for 2018/19. A comparable baseline should be provided in future overview reports to facilitate the analysis of trends in resource requirements over different budget periods, given the recent increase in the number of requests to enter into financial commitments additional to the mission resource levels initially approved by the General Assembly.

9. With regard to the delivery of support to missions, the Advisory Committee was concerned about the persistent increases in the support ratios since 2014/15 and the absence of adequate analysis in the overview report, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the matter. The implementation of various efficiency initiatives should positively affect the support ratios.

10. Following multiple changes in the structure of support components in peacekeeping operations in recent years, a period of stabilization and an assessment of the effectiveness of the reorganized structures were needed. No detail pertaining to the costs and benefits of

the supply chain management initiative had been provided, and the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to carry out a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis.

11. The Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General's report lacked detailed information relating to the scope of programmatic activities included in peacekeeping mission budget proposals and the criteria for their inclusion. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in future overview reports, detailed information on such activities and on the contractual arrangements in place with implementing partners.

12. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide more detailed information on the lessons learned from the deployment of unmanned aerial systems, the rationale and justification for their inclusion in mission budgets and measures to improve utilization rates.

13. Lastly, the Advisory Committee trusted that the lessons learned from the closure of three peacekeeping missions in the 2017/18 period would be fully integrated into the transition processes for MINUJUSTH and UNAMID to ensure that the risk of loss or theft of assets was mitigated and that staff-related issues were handled smoothly.

14. **Ms. Tarbush** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, paid tribute to United Nations peacekeepers who had been wounded or who had lost their lives in the pursuit of peace. A better policy framework for the administrative and budgetary governance of peacekeeping operations would help to prevent the loss of peacekeepers and civilian personnel.

15. The Group looked forward to discussing the impact on peacekeeping operations of the management reforms adopted a year previously. However, in the light of the sustained decline in the resource level for peacekeeping operations and the insistence of many delegations on further reductions, the Group questioned whether the reforms could continue to be implemented without proper funding.

16. While the Group welcomed the report of the Board of Auditors, the Advisory Committee's analysis of the Board's recommendations should be considered under the agenda item on financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board, and under other relevant agenda items, as noted in General

Assembly resolution 72/8 B. The Group acknowledged the connection between the Board's recommendations and the agenda item currently under consideration, but was concerned that the absence of a substantive report of the Advisory Committee under the agenda item on financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board, would limit the effectiveness of the Fifth Committee's decisions on the Board's recommendations. The Group would look into the recommendations that had not been implemented in such areas as air operations, as well as information gaps that might prevent the Fifth Committee from making decisions that would benefit peacekeeping operations.

17. The Group would carefully consider the performance and implementation of peacekeeping budgets, bearing in mind the continued reductions in resource requirements. Robust peacekeeping budgets was essential for the full implementation of agreed mandates. The Group's long-standing position was that mandates must be funded. Cuts for the sake of cuts were unacceptable. The Group would examine the areas most affected by financing shortfalls and the effect on mandate implementation. Mandates must be fulfilled responsibly, through financial discipline, in accordance with the relevant resolutions. It was not for the Secretariat to decide which mandates should be implemented; mandates were the prerogative of Member States. The Group would pay close attention to how the recent reforms had improved budgetary supervision and therefore budgetary performance. At the same time, the lack of resources could be resolved only if all Member States paid their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

18. Quick-impact projects and programmatic activities were crucial for successful mandate implementation. Quick-impact projects built confidence in missions, their mandates, and political and peace processes, and contributed to force protection by generating support for the military and police components of missions, a matter of importance to troop- and police-contributing countries. Although they accounted for a small share of mission budgets, programmatic activities were essential to advancing political processes and ensuring wider mandate implementation. In recent years, the Security Council had increased the number of programmatic activities in peacekeeping missions with a view to preventing and resolving conflicts and building lasting peace. The Secretariat should continue to increase the effectiveness of programmatic activities, but must not use artificial criteria, such as distinctions between different types of programmatic activities, in the related governance arrangements.

19. The Group supported the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. The number of reported allegations of such abuse had increased, implicating United Nations and non-United Nations personnel, such as staff members of non-governmental organizations that implemented the Organization's programmes. The zero-tolerance policy must apply equally to civilian and uniformed United Nations personnel, international forces authorized by a Security Council mandate and civilian staff members of the Organization's humanitarian and development partners.

20. The number of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse reported for peacekeeping missions had decreased, with 54 allegations reported in 2018, compared with 62 reported in 2017 and 104 reported in 2016. Some 217 civilian personnel of the United Nations and staff members of the Organization's implementing partners had been accused of such abuse in 2018, compared with 78 uniformed personnel. The Group wondered whether, in the case of civilian personnel and implementing partners, the victim-centred approach should be complemented by a system-wide framework for protecting victims against reprisals from perpetrators; such a framework already existed for uniformed personnel.

21. The Group welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to ensuring that the Organization did not remain silent or passive in the face of reported incidents, and to protecting and supporting victims through a victim-centred approach and effective preventive policies and response measures. The Group would examine progress towards a unified approach to combating sexual exploitation and abuse. In particular, it would seek further information on the mechanisms for addressing cases of such abuse involving civilians and United Nations personnel at Headquarters and in the field, and would examine whether the existing mechanisms ensured accountability for personnel found guilty of such abuse.

22. While the Group welcomed the measures introduced to address sexual exploitation and abuse, more should be done to mitigate the risk factors identified by the Secretary-General in his previous reports on the issue. The Group was pleased that the Secretary-General was actively enforcing whistleblower policies that protected staff members who reported misconduct or cooperated with investigations. Strict implementation of such policies was essential for empowering staff to report misconduct, including in cases involving senior officials.

23. Turning to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on its activities on peace operations for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018 (A/73/324 (Part II)), she noted with appreciation that the Office had issued a total of 252 oversight reports relating to peace operations in 2018, and had made 595 recommendations.

24. Resolutions on cross-cutting issues were intended to provide overarching policy guidelines on administrative and budgetary issues relating to peacekeeping operations, and should not be used as a means of making arbitrary budget cuts.

25. **Mr. De Preter** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, paid tribute to United Nations peacekeeping personnel, in particular those who had lost their lives in the pursuit of peace. The European Union was committed to ensuring that United Nations peacekeeping was as effective as possible in maintaining peace and security, in line with the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The States members of the European Union were actively engaged in peacekeeping operations through financial contributions and the provision of troops, civilian police and other personnel.

26. The Secretary-General's overview report on the financing of peacekeeping operations highlighted key developments and challenges. The management reform was an opportunity for missions to improve accountability, transparency, performance management and cost-efficiency, which would in turn improve mandate fulfilment and help certain missions to transition towards drawdown.

27. Uniformed personnel were vital to peacekeeping. The European Union attached great importance to the capabilities and performance of troops and to the provision of fully operational equipment, as agreed in the memorandums of understanding between troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. Those countries and the United Nations had differing but complementary responsibilities for the provision of training and medical support to uniformed personnel.

28. Peacekeeping operations should make use of the best technology available to improve the security and safety of troops and United Nations personnel and to reduce the environmental footprint of missions. Modern technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, radars and surveillance equipment, could save lives. In line with the independent report on improving the security of United Nations peacekeepers prepared by Lieutenant

General (retired) Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, the European Union stood ready to consider ways to better protect troops and United Nations personnel and to ensure that peacekeeping missions had the necessary capabilities.

29. The progress made in the area of environmental management was essential to ensuring the Organization's responsible and sustainable field presence and improving mandate fulfilment. The European Union welcomed, therefore, the ongoing implementation of the Secretariat's six-year environment strategy and recent efforts to develop global environmental management systems and tools to improve the environmental performance of missions.

30. Peacekeepers also supported mandate fulfilment by playing a critical role in ensuring respect for human rights and protecting vulnerable people, in particular women and children, in situations of armed conflict. A gender perspective must be mainstreamed throughout peacekeeping work, including the early stages of operational planning, and reform of the peace and security architecture must include efforts to ensure the necessary gender expertise in Secretariat structures whose work was related to peacekeeping. The continued deployment of gender advisers and child protection advisers to assist mission staff, where required in accordance with mandates, was also essential. Cooperation between child protection focal points and civilian child protection advisers was crucial to the effective monitoring and reporting of violations. In addition, strengthening gender expertise in missions improved the overall effectiveness of peacekeeping by enhancing interaction with local communities.

31. In line with the reform and the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, peacekeeping should be part of a broader political process and should be accompanied by support measures designed to enhance stability, both during the lifespan of a mission and during the transfer of functions from missions to United Nations country teams. Given the critical importance of cooperation between military and civilian personnel, missions and country teams should develop strong links and exchanges on the ground with a view to creating a continuum between peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. While programmatic activities had a role to play in that regard, they should not overlap with the activities of country teams, and all funds spent by missions must be subject to the same standards of transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness, and be mandate-driven.

32. It was regrettable that, at the seventy-first and seventy-second sessions of the General Assembly, the

Committee had not been able to reach an agreement on cross-cutting issues. It was of the utmost importance that the Committee agree on a draft resolution on the matter during the current part of the resumed session, particularly in the light of the reforms that were being implemented to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

33. **Mr. Wanner** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, commended the commitment and hard work of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and paid tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace. Prevention was the most effective and least costly way of addressing conflicts. Ensuring that peace was sustainable was as important as achieving it in the first place. Liechtenstein and Switzerland favoured a whole-of-system approach to transition contexts. Peacekeeping missions should work closely with other United Nations system entities, the international community and national authorities to develop coherent transition strategies that enabled national authorities and international actors to sustain peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict. He welcomed the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping, which had been endorsed by more than 150 Member States and sent a strong signal regarding the need to adapt peacekeeping operations to current and future political and operational challenges.

34. The high number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in field missions, as well as the recurrence of the most egregious forms of such abuse, were matters of great concern. Liechtenstein and Switzerland welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to combating sexual exploitation and abuse and the steps taken in that regard, in particular the development of a common screening platform designed to ensure that potential candidates did not have a prior record of misconduct related to such abuse. However, more must be done, particularly in the areas of prevention, accountability, investigation and victim support.

35. Under the new management paradigm, decision-making authority should be further decentralized and policies and processes simplified. Greater delegation of authority would allow missions to respond quickly and efficiently to emerging needs.

36. OIOS played an important role in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations. Liechtenstein and Switzerland welcomed the findings set out in the OIOS report ([A/73/324 \(Part II\)](#)) and encouraged the Secretary-General to

implement the Office's recommendations in a timely manner in order to foster accountability.

37. **Mr. Conroy** (United States of America) said that the Committee's consideration of the Secretary-General's overview report came at an important moment in United Nations peacekeeping reform. It was the first time that cross-cutting policy issues would be discussed since the launch of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and the adoption of key elements of the Secretary-General's reforms in the areas of management and peace and security. His delegation welcomed the report's focus on such developments and looked forward to learning more about how they had improved mandate fulfilment, strengthened partnership among peacekeeping stakeholders and enhanced strategic planning and service delivery.

38. His delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's efforts to promote the women, peace and security agenda, including by increasing the number of uniformed women serving in peacekeeping operations; to measure the performance of the uniformed and civilian components of peacekeeping operations, and to provide those components with performance incentives; and to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers, in line with the Santos Cruz report. Such efforts would improve mandate implementation and protect both United Nations personnel and local communities.

39. The Committee had a responsibility to advance reforms that improved the efficiency of peacekeeping operations, and his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's ongoing review of air assets and efforts to improve the management of supply chains, vehicle fleets and rations. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's observation that peacekeeping budgets must demonstrate the scalability of mission support components, particularly during downsizing or reconfiguration. It was critical that the Fifth Committee reach consensus on a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues that provided support for the Secretary-General's reform initiatives and strategic guidance regarding their implementation.

40. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation attached great importance to the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping, the proper use of resources provided by Member States, precise budgetary planning and effective mission management. It was regrettable that a resolution on cross-cutting issues had not been adopted at the seventy-first or seventy-second sessions of the General Assembly and he hoped that the Committee would be able to reach consensus on a draft resolution during the

current part of the resumed session, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

41. The overall budget implementation rate had been 99 per cent for the 2017/18 period, compared to 98.6 per cent for the 2016/17 period. The resources proposed for the 2019/20 period amounted to \$6.6 billion, which was less than the approved resources for 2018/19; in addition, previous peacekeeping budgets had been approved at a level significantly lower than that of the Secretary-General's initial estimates. The desire to achieve additional savings should not affect the implementation of Security Council mandates. Instead, savings should be achieved through efficiency gains in the work of the Secretariat. In the light of the trend towards reduced resources for peacekeeping missions, it was important to improve planning, budgetary discipline, accountability and transparency. The procurement of expensive equipment that was often ineffective under field conditions must be approached with particular caution.

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy
(A/73/636, A/73/755/Add.9 and A/73/774)

42. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's reports on the budget performance of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/636) and the budget for the Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/774), said that the proposed budget for the 2019/20 period amounted to \$65.2 million, a decrease of 20.9 per cent compared with the approved budget for the 2018/19 period. The decrease was mainly attributable to the proposed transfer of Umoja maintenance and support costs from the budget of the Logistics Base to that of the support account for peacekeeping operations; the application of a lower exchange rate between the euro and the dollar, which had reduced the estimated national staff costs; and the decrease in the post adjustment multiplier for international staff.

43. The vision was to transform the Logistics Base into an operational service centre for field missions, providing services in the areas of supply chain management, engineering, environmental management and geospatial, information and telecommunications technologies, as well as specialized programmes, including occupational health and safety.

44. Pursuant to the recommendations made by OIOS in its report on its review and evaluation of strategic deployment stocks (A/71/798), and as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 71/294 and 72/287, the proposed budget for the period 2019/20 included a

review of the concept of operations for strategic deployment stocks.

45. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/755/Add.9), said that the proposed updated revised concept of operations for strategic deployment stocks did not provide a complete picture of the financial implications. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present for the Assembly's consideration a separate, comprehensive report on the revised concept of operations, based on a detailed analysis related to all aspects of the management of strategic deployment stocks, including the financial implications and enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of such management, as well as to location issues.

46. The parameters of the updated scalability model for the Logistics Base, should be refined to further clarify the relationship between the workload and full-time equivalent requirements. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to use the parameters of the scalability model as a basis to fully justify, in future reports, proposed changes to staffing levels and contractual personnel.

47. The Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed reassignment of one post of Contracts Management Officer at the P-4 level and the subsequent reclassification of the post to the P-5 level as a Senior Logistics Officer; the establishment of one position of Occupational Safety Officer at the P-3 level on a temporary basis; and the reclassification of one post of Senior Property Management Assistant from the national General Service to the P-3 level as a Property Management Officer. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended reductions under consultants and consulting services, official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, information and communications technology, and other supplies, services and equipment.

48. **Ms. Tarbush** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Logistics Base had been in operation since 1994. It operated as a unified entity from two geographical locations, comprising the Global Service Centre, Brindisi, and the United Nations Information and Communications Technology Facility in Valencia, Spain. The Logistics Base provided global geospatial, information and telecommunications technology, logistics and supply chain operational management, and

enabled support services to missions from start-up planning and preparation to liquidation. The Group recognized the important role of the Logistics Base in supporting peacekeeping missions and was committed to improving its functioning.

49. The Secretary-General's priorities regarding the Logistics Base for the 2019/20 period included renaming the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies as the Global Technology Service; resubmitting the revised concept of operations for strategic deployment stocks; implementing the second and final phase of the civilian staffing review recommendations; updating the scalability model; transforming the Field Central Review Bodies Unit into a new tenant unit at the Logistics Base, with a reporting line to the Department of Operational Support; and increasing the capacity of the Logistics Base in the areas of environmental management and occupational health and safety.

50. With regard to the revised concept of operations for strategic deployment stocks, she recalled General Assembly resolutions [71/294](#) and [72/287](#), the report on the review and evaluation of strategic deployment stocks conducted by OIOS ([A/71/798](#)) and the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 ([A/72/783](#)).

51. In his report on the budget for the Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/774](#)), the Secretary-General stated that additional resources required for maintaining commercial enabling capability would be included in the budget of the Logistics Base, and that the Logistics Base would develop a comprehensive solicitation plan in collaboration with United Nations Headquarters and identify the proposed requirements to be presented to the General Assembly. The Group would seek clarification of the role of the Logistics Base and of the Procurement Division in the procurement process and the generation of sourcing options.

52. In its review and evaluation of strategic deployment stocks, OIOS had recommended that the Department of Field Support consider storing strategic deployment stocks closer to the theatre of operations, including through partnerships with other United Nations entities. The Group did not understand why efforts had not been made to expedite a decision on that recommendation, given the urgency of procurement reform and the share of the budget allocated to procurement.

53. The inclusion of unmanned aerial systems in strategic deployment stocks was unjustified. The Group

would examine the categories of equipment identified for inclusion in the stocks and the level of procurement sought. The Group wished to improve its understanding of the concept of delegated authority as it applied to procurement.

54. In response to the latest developments in the client base of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies, including the closure of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the downsizing of UNAMID, the application of the scalability model to reflect the decreased demand for services had resulted in a net reduction of 16 contractors, saving approximately \$2 million. While the Group welcomed those efficiency gains, it noted that the staff allocation had not substantially changed.

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei ([A/73/610](#), [A/73/742](#) and [A/73/755/Add.11](#))

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti ([A/73/641](#), [A/73/748](#) and [A/73/755/Add.6](#))

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali ([A/73/634](#), [A/73/755/Add.7](#) and [A/73/760](#))

Agenda item 166: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) ([A/73/611](#), [A/73/755/Add.8](#) and [A/73/762](#))

55. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Controller), introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/610](#)) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/742](#)) for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), said that the proposed budget of \$267.9 million for the 2019/20 period represented an increase of 1.5 per cent compared with the 2018/19 approved budget. The increase was largely attributable to the planned deployment of 135 additional United Nations police officers and one formed police unit. It was offset in part by reduced requirements under military and police personnel as a result of the reduction of the authorized troop ceiling by 946 military contingent personnel, in accordance with Security Council resolutions [2416 \(2018\)](#) and [2445 \(2018\)](#).

56. UNISFA would continue to provide the sole security presence in the Abyei area, support the delivery of humanitarian aid and ensure freedom of movement and the protection of civilians under imminent threat. UNISFA would also support the Joint Border

Verification and Monitoring Mechanism through monitoring, verification and investigation missions within the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. In the absence of an Abyei police service, UNISFA would continue to provide policing services and support the maintenance of law and order.

57. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 16 October 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/641) and the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019 (A/73/748) for MINUJUSTH, he said that the operational circumstances of MINUJUSTH had been subject to significant uncertainty until the Security Council, by its resolution 2466 (2019), had extended the mandate of the Mission for a final period of six months until 15 October 2019. The General Assembly was requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of \$51.9 million for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019, to allow the Mission to fulfil its mandate and conduct closure activities. The proposed resource requirements took into consideration the planned drawdown of formed police units and civilian personnel, the closure of camps and other liquidation activities.

58. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/634) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/760) for MINUSMA, he said that the proposed budget for the 2019/20 period amounted to \$1.1 billion, which represented an increase of 7.0 per cent compared with the approved budget for 2018/19. Building on the successful holding of presidential elections and the positive momentum created by the conclusion of the Pact for Peace, the Mission had achieved some progress during the previous year. It was anticipated that by the beginning of the 2019/20 period, tangible progress in the implementation of the political and security provisions of the peace agreement would be achieved as a result of increased international pressure and sustained good offices.

59. MINUSMA would continue to reconfigure its military and police posture in accordance with its mandate and priorities and the recommendations of the military and police capabilities studies conducted during the 2018/19 period. Provided that gaps in military aviation and explosive ordnance disposal capabilities were identified, the Mission's uniformed personnel were expected to reach full operational capability during the 2019/20 period. While the focus on the north would remain key for the implementation of the peace agreement, the Mission was increasing its presence in central Mali in order to support the extension of State authority and the protection of civilians. MINUSMA

would continue to strengthen its intelligence architecture by investing in protection systems to improve mandate implementation and ensure the safety of Mission personnel.

60. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/611) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/762) for UNSOS, he said that the proposed budget for the 2019/20 period amounted to \$569.5 million, which represented an increase of 2.0 per cent compared with the approved budget for the 2018/19 period. UNSOS would continue to provide logistical support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Through the Mine Action Service, UNSOS would help AMISOM to mitigate the threat posed by improvised explosive devices. UNSOS would focus on projects related to environmental enhancements, camp infrastructure improvements and critical security-related upgrades in response to a mortar attack on its compound in Mogadishu. The 2018 independent review of UNSOS and the subsequent staffing review had identified new requirements related to international and national civilian staffing, which were reflected in the proposed budget for the 2019/20 period.

61. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNISFA (A/73/755/Add.11), said that the Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment of an Administrative Officer post at the P-3 level in the regional sector office of Gok Machar. The increased level of requirements for operational costs, particularly those related to facilities and infrastructure, information and communications technology, consultants and ground transportation, was not fully justified. Given that UNISFA had historically experienced difficulties in carrying out construction and maintenance projects as planned, it was not realistic to assume that all construction projects planned for 2019/20 would be fully executed. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended a reduction of 15 per cent in the additional proposed resource requirements for operational costs.

62. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on MINUJUSTH (A/73/755/Add.6), he said that the Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would inform the General Assembly of how the Security Council's decision to extend the mandate of MINUJUSTH until 15 October 2019 would affect the proposed deployment of United Nations police personnel until 31 December 2019. The increased requirements under facilities and infrastructure needed to be better justified, and additional information on the

engagement of individual contractors should be provided. The Advisory Committee trusted that MINUJUSTH would help its staff to find new employment opportunities. The liquidation of other missions provided an opportunity for establishing best practice and institutionalizing lessons learned. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$50,950,100 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019.

63. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on MINUSMA ([A/73/755/Add.7](#)), he said that the Advisory Committee was concerned at the high number of casualties and pending death and disability claims and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to address the backlog. The Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed establishment of the posts of Strategic Planning Officer and Business Intelligence Assistant. It also recommended reductions of \$2 million in the proposed resources for information and communications technology and \$1.5 million in the proposed resources for facilities and infrastructure, as well as reductions related to travel for training purposes and ground transportation. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include a detailed analysis of the use of unmanned aerial systems, including information on their efficiency and cost and the lessons learned from their utilization, in his next report on MINUSMA.

64. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNSOS ([A/73/755/Add.8](#)), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the establishment of 22 of the proposed 24 posts for the 2019/20 period. The Board of Auditors had recommended that UNSOS strengthen internal controls and enforce accountability in procurement and contract management. The Advisory Committee trusted that the proposed strengthening of staff capacity in those areas would address the gaps and risks identified in the comprehensive review and staffing review of the Office, both conducted in 2018, so that UNSOS could provide responsive and effective field support to its clients and strengthen accountability and efficiency in the management of resources and finances. The Advisory Committee expected that the Secretary-General would, at the time of the General Assembly's consideration of the Advisory Committee's report on UNSOS, provide the Assembly with information on the differences in the total number of redeployments, reassignments and realignments proposed for 2019/20, and that future budget proposals would contain comprehensive information on all staffing changes, as well as on the evolving operational

and financial requirements of UNSOS, including the mission's logistics base in Mombasa, Kenya.

65. **Ms. Graña Coronel** (Uruguay), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay, said that MINUJUSTH, whose mandate was to strengthen rule-of-law institutions, modernize the Haitian national police and advance the protection of human rights, was in its final phase, after a long process that had begun in 2004 with the establishment of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). She trusted that MINUJUSTH would be succeeded by a special political mission on 16 October 2019, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2466 \(2019\)](#).

66. Haiti needed the support of the United Nations and of Member States. It was important to ensure a responsible transition to a non-peacekeeping United Nations presence that was underpinned by previous gains and backed by the international community. Accordingly, she fully supported the Secretary-General's proposal, including the resources for the holding of legislative and municipal elections and for drawdown activities. In the period for which the resources were requested, it would be more important than ever to strengthen the link between security and development, with a view to sustaining peace.

67. Programmatic activities and quick-impact projects should continue to be undertaken until the closure of MINUJUSTH. Community violence reduction programmes and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights had a vital role to play in strengthening the rule of law and consolidating peace in accordance with the Mission's mandate. Due consideration must be given to the conditions on the ground and to avoiding a security vacuum. In practical terms, that meant approving a predictable budget that would allow for an effective transition. The nine delegations reiterated their commitment to the people of Haiti and the importance of supporting that country.

68. **Mr. Woldeyes** (Ethiopia) said that, as one of the largest troop-contributing countries, Ethiopia attached great importance to ensuring that peacekeeping missions were adequately resourced and equipped. The mandates of peacekeeping missions were being expanded, but at the same time missions were being pressed to do more with less and to reduce expenditure. Missions must be given the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates. While it was important to ensure that peacekeeping operations were cost-effective and efficient, peacekeepers should not be exposed to

dangerous situations that could result in injury or loss of life.

69. UNISFA had been operating under heavy resource constraints, particularly in the previous two years, and as a result the specific requirements of female personnel in such areas as accommodation and logistical arrangements were not being met. Accordingly, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's budget proposal for UNISFA. He hoped that every effort had been made during the preparation of the budget to consult representatives in the field to avoid shortfalls. The Secretariat must provide Member States with assurances that the proposed budget would enable UNISFA to fulfil its mandate. Equally, sufficient explanations must be provided regarding the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed resources be reduced by \$3.04 million and the impact of such a reduction on the performance of mandated tasks.

70. Although UNISFA had fulfilled its mandate efficiently, the amount owed for contingent-owned equipment exceeded \$11 million and 12 death and disability compensation claims were pending. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee on the importance of settling such claims in a timely manner. The reimbursements and payments owed to troop-contributing countries must also be paid to avoid overburdening those countries.

71. UNISFA had won the trust of the Sudan and South Sudan, bringing them from the brink of conflict to sustainable cooperation, and had facilitated the emergence of inter-community economic hubs, such as the Amiet common market. The Force's success was the result of great sacrifices by Ethiopian peacekeepers, eight of whom had been killed since the start of the year. The full resources required for the 2019/20 period should be provided, including resources for facilities, infrastructure and quick-impact projects, to minimize risks that might undermine hard-won gains.

72. With regard to UNSOS, the budget reductions should be reconsidered as they did not take into account the resources required for some of the Office's activities. The Secretary-General's proposal, which reflected the gravity of the logistical and supply challenges in Somalia, should be supported. His delegation called on the Committee to show unity of purpose and allocate peacekeeping missions the resources they needed to fulfil their mandates.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.