



General Assembly

Seventy-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
19 January 2018

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 24th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 December 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe (Cameroon)
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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

Agenda item 163: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
([A/72/563](#) and [A/72/636](#))

1. **Ms. Bartsiotas** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/72/563](#)), said that the revised budget amounted to \$948.8 million, which represented a decrease of 8.7 per cent compared with the 2016/17 period. That reduction reflected the planned repatriation of military and police personnel, in accordance with the reconfiguration of UNAMID pursuant to Security Council resolution [2363 \(2017\)](#).

2. UNAMID would focus on military protection, the clearance of explosive remnants of war and emergency relief in the Jebel Marra area. In other areas of Darfur where there had not been recent fighting, UNAMID would focus on stabilizing the situation, supporting the police and helping the rule of law institutions, while continuing to protect civilians, mediating intercommunal conflict and following up on issues related to security sector reform. Taking into account the amount of \$486 million previously assessed on Member States for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2017 by General Assembly resolution [71/310](#), an additional amount of \$462.8 million would have to be assessed for the 2017/18 period.

3. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee ([A/72/636](#)), said that, in accordance with Security Council resolution [2363 \(2017\)](#), UNAMID would downsize its military, police and civilian personnel over a one-year period in two phases, with the first phase to conclude on 31 December 2017 and the second phase to conclude on 30 June 2018. The Advisory Committee recommended an overall reduction in the proposed budget of UNAMID of \$9.8 million.

4. The reductions under civilian staffing pertained mainly to one-time termination indemnity costs. The Advisory Committee noted that there was some uncertainty with respect to the number of civilian personnel projected to be on board at the end of the budget period and therefore recommended a reduction in the resources for one-time termination indemnity costs for international and national staff. In addition, the calculation of one-time termination indemnity costs should be more transparent. The Advisory Committee

requested the Secretary-General to provide details thereon to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.

5. Further reductions were recommended by the Advisory Committee under three operational categories: a reduction of 10 per cent under official travel; a reduction of \$2 million under facilities and infrastructure; and a reduction of \$2 million under communications. He recalled that the Advisory Committee had previously urged UNAMID to strengthen its environmental efforts and to pursue the utilization of alternative renewable energy sources in order to minimize the need for fossil-fuel-powered equipment. Efforts aimed at reducing the overall environmental footprint of UNAMID should be strengthened, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions [69/307](#) and [70/286](#).

6. **Mr. Burity** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the security situation in Darfur had improved. There had been no reports of confrontation between the Government and rebel groups in recent months and the incidence of intercommunal violence had fallen as a result of the effective measures taken by the Government of the Sudan, which had improved the overall humanitarian situation in the country.

7. Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, including the disarmament of the civilian population and the militia, would help to address the root causes of the conflict and improve peace and security in Darfur. The allocation of appropriate resources for mandate delivery by UNAMID would be instrumental in assisting law enforcement and justice institutions and ensuring that the Government's arms collection campaign was successful.

8. Given that the reconfiguration of UNAMID was proceeding well and that Darfur had remained stable despite the closure of team sites and the steady drawdown of forces, the Group of African States hoped that the second phase of the drawdown would also be a success and that the Operation's resource requirements would fall. More resources should be allocated to reducing the environmental footprint of UNAMID. In addition, the Secretariat should focus on post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

9. **Mr. Mohammed** (Sudan) said that the Security Council, in its resolution [2363 \(2017\)](#), had decided to reduce the number of UNAMID personnel in the light of the cessation of hostilities. During the first phase, the number of military personnel would be reduced by 44 per cent and the number of police personnel would be reduced by 30 per cent. The second phase would start

in January 2018. The Security Council had recognized his Government's efforts to stabilize the country and implement the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

10. The humanitarian situation in the Sudan had improved. His Government had launched an arms collection campaign and efforts were being made to help displaced persons. It had also had opened several humanitarian corridors in response to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and was hosting large numbers of refugees from that country. Moreover, the Sudanese Government and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs had concluded an agreement aimed at finding sustainable solutions to the plight of refugees and enabling thousands of displaced persons to return to their villages.

11. The security and stability of the country had also improved. There had not been any new waves of displacement in 2017, nor had there been further clashes between the armed forces and the Darfur rebel movements, except for an incident in May 2017, when the remnants of some rebel groups had entered the country through Libya and South Sudan. However, those groups had been neutralized and the Sudanese Government had observed a unilateral ceasefire ever since. His Government was committed to working with the United Nations and the African Union to bring about lasting peace and promote sustainable development.

12. In the light of recent developments, the budget of UNAMID should be re-examined. The priority should be ensuring post-conflict reconstruction, providing environmental support for affected communities and reducing the environmental footprint of UNAMID. It was also essential to ensure the return of internally displaced persons and promote disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, but those goals were not in keeping with the mandate and capabilities of UNAMID. The region must focus on consolidating peace and addressing the root causes of conflict, which was a huge challenge that would require concerted efforts by all parties.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.