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

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Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed seventy-third session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee that some of the draft resolutions and decisions to be introduced had only recently been adopted informally, and were thus provisional and available in English only. With full regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, she acknowledged the Committee's flexibility in proceeding with its consideration of the draft proposals on that basis so as to conclude its work at the second part of the resumed session.

Agenda item 134: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.33: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

2. **Mr. Bamya** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, when the financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/73/5 (Vol. II)) had been introduced at the Committee's 34th meeting, the Group had expressed concern about a number of points mentioned in the Board's report (see A/C.5/73/SR.34, para. 28) and had subsequently sought clarification of those points in informal consultations. Also at the 34th meeting, the Group had pointed out that the Board, in its report, had commented on several issues that were generally discussed by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the intergovernmental forum mandated to discuss those issues (see A/C.5/73/SR.34, para. 30).

3. The Group could not accept the explanations provided for some of the Board's comments and recommendations. Accordingly, following a precedent set at the sixty-ninth session (see A/C.5/69/SR.27/Add.1, para. 6), the Group proposed in the draft resolution that the Committee take note of the Board's report, except for a small number of recommendations. The Board was essential to the functioning of the oversight system of the United Nations, but the Committee was entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, including the analysis of the Board's recommendations and the subsequent decision on whether they should be implemented.

4. Any attempt to circumvent the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly was harmful to the Organization, as the Advisory Committee on

Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recognized by stating, in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/73/755), that it considered certain matters mentioned in the Board's report to be policy matters under the purview of Member States. He also emphasized that the Secretariat should implement only those of the Board's recommendations that had been endorsed by Member States.

5. The Group would reluctantly be requesting a vote on the draft resolution. Although it was desirable for the Committee to take decisions by consensus, democracy was based on the will of the majority, and the recourse to a vote was established in the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly as a means of ensuring democratic decision-making. The misuse or abuse of the practice of consensus could hinder the proper functioning of the Committee, adversely affect mandate implementation and, as in the present case, place an unfair burden on troop- and police-contributing countries, the majority of which were members of the Group. He called on delegations to support the draft resolution and take a decision that reflected the position of the majority of Committee members.

6. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation attached great importance to the Board of Auditors, which sometimes made recommendations on matters that the Member States were still discussing. His delegation agreed with the comments made by the Observer for the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and requested to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

7. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) proposed an oral amendment to the draft resolution, consisting of the deletion, from paragraph 1, of the words "and endorses the recommendations" and "except those contained in paragraphs 144, 149, 151, 266, 273, 280, 385 and 387 of the report", and the withdrawal of paragraph 5.

8. **Mr. Välimaa** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the regrettable failure to reach consensus had led to the Observer State of Palestine putting forward a draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Board of Auditors was an independent oversight body composed of experts from Member States who upheld the highest standards in auditing. Voting on the Board's recommendations had a chilling effect on the United Nations, compromised the Board's independence and inhibited the free-flowing dialogue between the Secretariat and the Board. The

Member States should not micromanage the Secretary-General in his administration of the Organization.

9. The States members of the European Union welcomed the Board's recommendations, including those related to procurement, the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, and force generation and peacekeeping performance, all of which fell within the Board's mandate. Although certain recommendations should also be discussed in other forums, the outright rejection of those recommendations set a very bad precedent. It was regrettable that the Group of 77 and China had flatly rejected recommendations that were aimed at improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping and were in line with policy guidance contained in resolutions of various United Nations bodies and the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, issued as part of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. In the Declaration, which had been endorsed by 151 Member States, the issues raised by the Board were mentioned as essential to peacekeeping. The other recommendations rejected in the draft resolution had been formulated in the spirit of the reform endorsed by Member States in 2018 and were aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations system.

10. Voting on recommendations related to the Organization's management was regrettable, and voting in the Committee on matters related to oversight, instead of reverting to agreed language or remaining silent when consensus was not possible, was a dangerous precedent. The States members of the European Union therefore supported the oral amendment proposed by the United States, an amendment which would maintain the balance between the Board's mandate to make recommendations on the functioning of the United Nations and the General Assembly's role in formulating policy. He hoped that other delegations would join the States members of the European Union in voting in favour of the proposed oral amendment.

11. **Mr. Bamya** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, asked whether the Committee had micromanaged the Secretary-General and infringed on the Board's mandate when, at the sixty-ninth session, it had set the precedent for the adoption of a draft resolution proposing that the Committee take note of the Board's report, except for a small number of recommendations. Decisions on whether to endorse the Board's recommendations were, after all, within the purview of the Committee.

12. In response to his delegation's enquiries about how to proceed, the Committee secretariat had indicated that, by default, the Board's recommendations would be

implemented as a block. The Group's explicit proposal in the draft resolution that the Committee not take note of certain recommendations was the only way to avoid the implementation of those recommendations as a block. His delegation could not accept the proposed oral amendment, whose adoption would result in the opposite outcome to that sought by the Group. It requested a recorded vote on the proposed oral amendment, which it urged all other delegations to vote against.

13. *At the request of the Observer for the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.33 proposed by the representative of the United States of America.*

In favour:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Liberia.

14. *The oral amendment proposed by the United States of America was rejected by 88 votes to 47, with 2 abstentions.*

15. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to request a recorded vote on the draft resolution as a whole. The introduction of a draft resolution on which consensus had not been reached was regrettable, and the hostility reflected in the draft resolution to the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors was troubling given the Board's unique role as an independent oversight body for the United Nations system. Member States had consistently commended the Board on the quality of, and valuable insights and observations contained in, its reports. If adopted, the draft resolution would have a chilling effect on what should be a free-flowing dialogue between the Board and the Secretariat, and would compromise the Board's independence by preventing it from making observations and recommendations on certain matters. That was unacceptable.

16. The Secretary-General, in accepting the Board's recommendations, had given due recognition to the roles of the General Assembly and of the Security Council. Having carefully considered the recommendations, he clearly saw merit in them and viewed their implementation as within his purview. Her delegation would not support attempts to curtail the Secretary-General's authority and efforts to effectively manage the Organization, and was concerned by the reasons given by certain delegations for rejecting the recommendations, in particular those contained in paragraphs 144, 149, and 151 of the Board's report. All Member States should support the establishment of transparent and objective criteria in force generation, the prevention of undeclared caveats that hindered mandate implementation and the inclusion of performance criteria and expectations in the Organization's agreements with troop- and police-contributing countries.

17. The implementation of the Board's recommendations would improve performance in peacekeeping. Since performance was essential to the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, those Member States that had endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments should support those recommendations and the Secretary-General's ability to implement them, rather than tie his hands. Other delegations were cynically and underhandedly undoing reforms endorsed by the General Assembly by using the draft resolution

to instruct the Secretary-General not to follow the Board's recommendations that those reforms be implemented. Lastly, the adoption of draft resolutions that were not subject to consensus in the Committee set a dangerous precedent. Given the importance of budgetary and administrative issues, consensus must be achieved to avoid sending conflicting signals to the Secretariat. If the introduction of draft resolutions on which consensus had not been reached became a viable option, there would be little incentive to reach consensus when disagreements arose. That would lead to a divided Committee and acrimonious, divisive negotiations.

18. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.33](#) as a whole.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain,

Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:
None.

19. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.33](#) was adopted by 93 votes to 46.

20. **Mr. Gohar** (Pakistan) said that United Nations peacekeeping must be a collective endeavour. Consultations among relevant stakeholders and the formulation of rational mandates, together with adequate financing, were essential to the achievement of the desired results. A durable triangular cooperation mechanism to ensure that the experience of troop-contributing countries was taken into consideration in mandate formulation was critical to the success of peacekeeping missions. Through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, Member States, members of the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and financial contributors had renewed their efforts to make peacekeeping more effective and adaptive. The Declaration of Shared Commitments stressed the importance of avoiding caveats that adversely affected mandate implementation and performance. It was ironic, however, that caveats were currently accepted, while genuine input from the field was resisted. Some recommendations of the Board of Auditors on peacekeeping missions fell within the purview of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which remained the intergovernmental forum mandated to discuss such matters. Any attempt to circumvent that process of the General Assembly would adversely affect the deliberations, as the Advisory Committee had recognized in its report on the matter ([A/73/755](#)). Accordingly, his delegation had voted against the proposed oral amendment and in favour of the draft resolution as a whole.

21. **Mr. Wax** (Israel) said that it was regrettable that consensus had not been reached on the draft resolution. The Board of Auditors was essential as an independent oversight body for the United Nations system. His delegation attached the utmost importance to improving performance in peacekeeping and had voted against the draft resolution, which would not help the implementation of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, endorsed by Israel.

22. **Mr. Ammann** (Switzerland) said that it was regrettable that consensus had not been reached on the draft resolution. The Board was an independent body that provided oversight of the United Nations system, and his delegation appreciated the consistently high quality of its reports and the relevance of its

observations. Some of the provisions of the draft resolution could adversely affect the independent nature of the relationship between the Board and the Secretariat. Since the Secretary-General was responsible for effectively managing the United Nations, it was within his purview to accept and react to the Board's recommendations. Voting on draft resolutions should be avoided in the Committee, which, given the importance of administrative and budgetary matters, should strive to achieve consensus on the matters before it. His delegation's vote against the draft resolution had been a call for compromise and adherence to the practice of taking decisions by consensus in the Committee, rather than the expression of a negative view of the valued work of the Board.

23. **Mr. Funes Henríquez** (El Salvador) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because the Board of Auditors, while essential to the functioning of the Organization, had exceeded its mandate in proposing recommendations that fell under the purview of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and therefore of the Member States.

Agenda item 136: Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (continued)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.50: Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

24. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.50](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 138: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.36)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.36: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

25. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that, during the informal consultations on the draft resolution, his delegation had repeatedly tried to discuss its proposals, but no productive dialogue had ensued. The majority of the Secretary-General's proposals to improve the financial situation of the Organization treated the symptoms rather than the illness, which they in fact entrenched. Since dialogue in the Committee was essential, his delegation would not vote against the draft resolution. However, its calls had not been heeded, and it could not, therefore, join the consensus or take responsibility for the possible further worsening of the

financial situation. Problems caused by debtors should not be solved at the cost of those who had conscientiously paid their contributions. Proposals on the matter should address the root causes of the problems. His delegation would take into account the lack of consensus on the matter in planning the payment of its contributions in the future.

26. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.36](#) was adopted.

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

Support account for peacekeeping operations (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.35: Support account for peacekeeping operations

27. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.35](#) was adopted.

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.52: Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

28. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.52](#) was adopted.

Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.51: Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda

29. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.51](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.39)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.39: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

30. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.39](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.47: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

31. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.47](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.32)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.32: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

32. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.32](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.44: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

33. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.44](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.43: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

34. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.43](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.34: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

35. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.34](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.46: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

36. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.46](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.48: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

37. Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.48](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 160: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.49: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

38. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.49 was adopted.*

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.42)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.42: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

39. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.42 was adopted.*

Agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (continued)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.45: Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

40. **Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) had been established in accordance with Security Council resolution 350 (1974), following the October War of 1973, to ensure separation between Syrian and Israeli forces in the occupied Syrian Golan. The main reason for the establishment and continued operation of UNDOF was that Israeli forces had occupied the Syrian Golan in 1967 and remained there in flagrant violation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a full withdrawal to the line of 4 June 1967. In other words, the presence of UNDOF was temporary, pending the end of the occupation and the implementation of the relevant international resolutions.

41. His delegation rejected the systematic attempts of certain countries to undermine the Force's mandate, which was, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, entirely military rather than political. The question was not one of posts but of his delegation's position of principle that UNDOF was a peacekeeping operation on Syrian soil and that, consequently, his country's position and considerations, like those of any country that hosted a peacekeeping mission, should not be ignored in negotiations at the United Nations. The issue was related not to Syria but to the foundations of peacekeeping operations since the inception of the concept.

42. The functions of the two temporary international civilian positions were, in fact, being performed by

military officers from the UNDOF contingents. He asked why certain countries wanted civilian rather than military personnel to perform those tasks, in a way that ran counter to the Force's military mandate. It was clearly stated in the rules of procedure and in the recommendations of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee that any post that was vacant for more than two years should be abolished, and his delegation had repeatedly rejected attempts by the delegations of the United States and the European Union to politicize the Force's mandate. In informal consultations, those delegations had rejected the legitimate proposal of the Syrian Arab Republic to prevent recourse to a vote; the Syrian delegation and some friendly delegations had made that proposal because they wanted the Committee to adopt the resolution by consensus as in previous years, and thereby ensure that such unjustified conduct would not set a precedent in the Committee.

43. For those reasons, and for others given by his delegation in its statement to the Committee when the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/614) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/734) for UNDOF had been introduced (see A/C.5/73/SR.36, paras. 43–48), his delegation found itself obliged to propose an oral amendment to the draft resolution, consisting of the insertion of the following paragraph, which had been transmitted to the Secretariat:

“Takes note of paragraph 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee and decides to abolish two international temporary positions, one Mission Liaison Officer (P-4) and one international position of Senior Political Special Adviser (P-5), funded under general temporary assistance, that had been vacant since June 2015.”

His delegation encouraged Member States to adopt the proposed amendment by consensus to avoid a vote. However, if the delegations that he had previously named held fast to their deplorable and unjustified rejection of the proposal, he urged the Committee to vote in favour of the amendment, thus supporting the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and upholding the principles of peacekeeping over the interests of a particular country.

44. His delegation appreciated the noble mission of UNDOF, paid tribute to the countries that contributed to the Force, and was committed to the Disengagement of Forces Agreement and the related Security Council and

General Assembly resolutions, which stated that the Golan was an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic. His delegation was convinced that the Golan Heights would be returned in accordance with international law, and looked forward to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant terms of reference.

45. **Mr. Välimaa** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that it was a matter of concern that consensus had once again not been reached on the draft resolution on the financing of UNDOF. In addition, the politicization of the discussions was regrettable. The States members of the European Union called for a recorded vote on the draft resolution and intended to vote against the oral amendment proposed by the Syrian Arab Republic. The Committee had approved the establishment of the positions that would be abolished under the proposed oral amendment. It was regrettable that one of the positions had been vacant since 2015 because the potential occupant had been refused the necessary visas. He urged the Government of Syria to enable the mission to function properly by allowing such posts to be filled as approved by the Committee.

46. *At the request of the representative of Finland on behalf of the European Union, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment to draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.45](#) proposed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.*

In favour:

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

47. *The oral amendment proposed by the Syrian Arab Republic was rejected by 57 votes to 10, with 63 abstentions.*

48. *Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.45](#) was adopted.*

49. **Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation thanked those that had voted in favour of the proposed oral amendment or had abstained from the voting. His delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.45](#) and intended, in addition, to vote in favour of draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.31](#), on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The responsibility for financing UNDOF and UNIFIL must be borne by Israel, the occupying power, whose actions had necessitated the establishment of those Forces. His delegation's position was consistent with the fundamental principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV).

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
(continued) ([A/C.5/73/L.31](#))

Draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.31](#): Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (continued)

50. **Mr. Bamyä** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introducing oral amendments to the draft resolution, said that, in paragraphs 1 and 11, the reference to the resolution on cross-cutting issues at the seventy-third session should be deleted. In paragraph 10, after the words "Budgetary Questions", the words "subject to the provisions of the present resolution" should be inserted. The following paragraphs should be inserted between the existing paragraphs 10 and 11, with renumbering of the subsequent paragraphs:

“Takes note of paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee and decides to establish the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) post;

“Emphasizes the importance of overall budgetary performance in peacekeeping operations and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement the recommendations of the relevant oversight bodies and to report thereon in the context of the performance reports in this regard;

“Also emphasizes the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat and requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen risk management and internal controls in the management of peacekeeping budgets and to report thereon in the context of his next report.”

Paragraph 23 should be deleted, with renumbering of the subsequent paragraphs.

51. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in the existing paragraph 15, the spaces left blank for the insertion of amounts should be filled with the following figures, in order: “\$512,142,000”; “\$480,102,600”; “\$27,194,200”; and “\$4,845,200”. In the existing paragraph 16, the blank space should be filled with the following figure: “\$85,357,000”. In the existing paragraph 17, the blank spaces should be filled with the following figures, in order: “\$2,583,000”; “\$2,174,950”; “\$322,720”; and “\$85,330”. In the existing paragraph 18, the blank spaces should be filled with the following figures, in order: “\$426,785,000” and “\$42,678,500”. In the existing paragraph 19, the blank spaces should be filled with the following figures, in order: “\$12,915,000”; “\$10,874,750”; “\$1,613,580”; and “\$426,670”.

52. **Mr. Wax** (Israel) said that reforming the work and practices of the Organization, including the Committee’s working methods, had been the focus of the Committee’s deliberations in recent years. What had not changed was the annual ritual of the draft resolution on the financing of UNIFIL, which the Group of 77 and China had once again introduced with the sole purpose of politicizing the Committee’s deliberations on the matter. The Committee had approved important reforms of the Organization, but those reforms did not seem to apply to its own work. The Group of 77 and China had, as it did every year, singled out Israel, a country that had good relations with the peacekeeping forces in the region, including UNIFIL, and that had increased the medical support and training it provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The fourth preambular paragraph and the existing paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution were nothing more than an attempt to insert a political agenda into what should be

a substantive discussion of the financial requirements of peacekeeping operations. His delegation called for a vote on the deletion of those paragraphs from the draft resolution and urged other Member States to oppose such ineffectual language, which threatened to politicize the Committee’s work.

53. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that her delegation supported UNIFIL in implementing its important mandate. The use of funding resolutions to pursue claims against a Member State, however, was procedurally incorrect, and her delegation opposed the inclusion in such resolutions of paragraphs that required Israel to meet the costs stemming from the Qana incident of 1996. Such resolutions were not consensus resolutions. The procedure followed since shortly after the founding of the United Nations had been for the Secretary-General to pursue settlement of the Organization’s claims against States. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement was inappropriate, politicized the work of the Committee, and should be avoided on the present occasion and in the future.

54. **Mr. Bamya** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, making a general statement before the voting, encouraged other delegations to vote against the deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph and the existing paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution.

55. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on the deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph and the existing paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.31](#).*

In favour:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi

Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe.

56. *The deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.31 was rejected by 84 votes to 3, with 52 abstentions.*

57. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.31, as orally amended, was adopted.*

58. **Mr. Välimaa** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that it was a matter of concern that no consensus had been reached on the draft resolution, and that political elements had been introduced in the work of the Committee. The States members of the European Union had abstained from the voting on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13, as they considered the text inappropriate in the context of the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the events referred to, including the incident at Qana, had been debated extensively in the plenary Assembly in April 1996, and reflected in resolution 50/22 C, at which time the States members of the European Union had made clear their position. They would have preferred the Committee's consultations on the matter to have been confined to the budgetary aspects of the financing of UNIFIL.

59. **Ms. Chidiac** (Lebanon) said that her delegation reaffirmed its principled position in support of peacekeeping missions around the world, particularly in southern Lebanon. She supported UNIFIL and its leadership in fulfilling its mandate to implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in its entirety. Lebanon had voted against the deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13, since

those paragraphs had been made necessary by the persistent non-compliance of Israel with previous resolutions. She supported the Secretary-General's efforts to secure the payment to UNIFIL of the amount of \$1,117,005 as compensation for the shelling and destruction of the Force's headquarters at Qana in April 1996. United Nations peacekeeping was an investment in global peace, security and prosperity. It reflected the determination, expressed in the Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. She paid tribute to all peacekeepers, in particular those who had given their lives and the 10,325 peacekeepers from 42 troop-contributing countries who were deployed in southern Lebanon.

Agenda item 163: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.38)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.38: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

60. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.38 was adopted.*

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.41: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

61. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.41 was adopted.*

Agenda item 165: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.37)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.37: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

62. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.37 was adopted.*

Agenda item 166: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (continued) (A/C.5/73/L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.40: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

63. *Draft resolution A/C.5/73/L.40 was adopted.*

64. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take note of the information in the Secretary-General's note on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (A/C.5/73/22), which, in accordance

with the prorating procedures established in General Assembly resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share of the support account, the United Nations Logistics Base and the Regional Service Centre. She also invited the Committee to take note of the Secretary-General's note on approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/C.5/73/21).

Agenda item 135: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Questions deferred for future consideration
(A/C.5/73/L.53)

Draft decision A/C.5/73/L.53: Questions deferred for future consideration

65. *Draft decision A/C.5/73/L.53 was adopted.*

Other matters

66. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that all resolutions relating to the peacekeeping budget and to special political missions adopted at the present meeting should be considered effective on 1 July 2019.

67. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees (*continued*)

68. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee would proceed with the election of the members of its Bureau for the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. In accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, for the office of Vice-Chairs of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed (Egypt) had been nominated and endorsed by the Group of African States, Mr. Mikeladze (Georgia) had been nominated and endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States and Mr. Feldman (Brazil) had been put forward for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. For the office of Rapporteur, Mr. Wax (Israel) had been nominated and endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

69. *Mr. Ahmed (Egypt), Mr. Mikeladze (Georgia) and Mr. Feldman (Brazil) were elected Vice-Chairs, and Mr. Wax (Israel) was elected Rapporteur, by acclamation.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed seventy-third session of the General Assembly

70. **Mr. Bamya** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the second part of the resumed session had been challenging. The Group was concerned that, for the second consecutive year, the Committee had not concluded its work before the start of the new peacekeeping financial period. The Group would work in a spirit of constructiveness and flexibility to reach consensus more quickly in the future. Peacekeeping was the largest, most visible representation of the Organization's work, and peacekeeping missions must have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates effectively. The Group did not believe in arbitrary, across-the-board cost-cutting exercises that did not take into consideration the situation on the ground. Troop- and police-contributing countries made an invaluable contribution to international peace and security, and close consultations between the Secretary-General and such countries were essential in peacekeeping-related matters. It was regrettable that the Committee had once again not reached consensus on the long-standing issue of claims payable to Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries, from the budgets of closed peacekeeping operations. Nevertheless, there had been broad convergence on proposals to address such claims, and he hoped that the Committee would go a step further the next time it discussed the matter.

71. The Board of Auditors was essential to the functioning of the oversight system of the United Nations. He thanked delegations for their engagement on the Board's report, which, however, contained recommendations on matters within the purview of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the intergovernmental forum mandated to discuss those matters.

72. Although the consultations on improving the financial situation of the United Nations had not been easy, the Group welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution on the matter, which would help the Secretary-General manage the liquidity challenges facing the Organisation while ensuring that the prerogatives of the General Assembly were respected. Those challenges, however, resulted mainly from the increase in arrears among and late payments by Member States. Sympathetic understanding should be extended to those temporarily unable to meet their financial obligations as a consequence of genuine economic difficulties, and the Group commended Member States that had made efforts to reduce their outstanding contributions despite domestic problems. All Member

States, however, in particular those that, for political reasons, consistently and deliberately withheld payments, must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time, and without conditions.

73. **Ms. Nalwanga** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that, while the Group supported the decisions reached at the current meeting, it was concerned at the way in which the Committee's deliberations had proceeded. The unnecessary delays in the consideration of many matters, in particular the budgets of peacekeeping operations, had adversely affected the Committee's work, and great efforts had been required to ensure that those operations were financed. Agreement had been reached through sacrifice and painful concessions by the Group, which was concerned about the limited resources allocated to peacekeeping operations, whose primary purpose was to support Member States' efforts to achieve peace and security while protecting civilians, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups. If efforts to do more with less continued, peacekeeping operations would have hardly any resources – including human resources – with which to implement their mandates, and would be left in a state of uncertainty year after year.

74. While the agreement reached by the Committee had left the fundamental activities of peacekeeping operations secure, attempts to impose substantial budget cuts across the board would threaten mandate implementation and undermine the credibility of the United Nations. Committee members must work in the spirit of the Charter at the expert level so that doubt was not cast on their commitment. Individual Member States, and groups of Member States, should avoid seeking arbitrary budget cuts in the name of efficiency; such attempts would result in a high risk of a non-consensual outcome, the consequences of which would be dire. To avoid the accumulation of arrears and cash shortfalls, Member States must pay their contributions in full, promptly and without conditions. The Committee should improve its working methods and conclude its work within the allotted time.

75. **Mr. De Preter** (Observer for the European Union) said that the States members of the European Union attached great importance to peacekeeping as a core task of the Organization. They were satisfied that consensus had been reached on peacekeeping budgets and that missions were adequately financed. He paid tribute to the hard work of United Nations peacekeepers, particularly those who had lost their lives serving in missions. He valued the Committee's consensus-based working methods; the failure to reach consensus on the report of the Board of Auditors was deeply regrettable and set a bad precedent. The States members of the

European Union supported the Board's recommendations. While those recommendations related to matters within the broad purview of the States Members of the United Nations, the Organization's policy organs also had a role in debating and commenting on them. The vote on the Board's report had upset that delicate balance.

76. It was regrettable that agreement had not been reached on cross-cutting issues, particularly special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, the use of modern technologies in peacekeeping missions and the application to those missions of environmental standards. The adoption of the draft resolution on improving the financial situation of the United Nations would help the Secretary-General address the cash crisis in peacekeeping. More should be done, however, to improve the budget methodology and give the Secretary-General the necessary flexibility to manage budgets for results. All Member States should pay their assessed contributions in full and in a timely manner. It was unfortunate that the Committee had not concluded the second part of the resumed session within the allotted time. The Committee should continue to review its working methods, and working late into the night should be the exception rather than the rule for its decision-making.

77. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) said that the United States supported United Nations peacekeeping as a core part of the Organization's activities and a vital political tool to help conflict-affected countries reach political solutions. However, the Committee's ultimate goal, which had been pursued throughout the second part of the resumed session, was to ensure that peacekeeping was effective and efficient.

78. In adopting a peacekeeping budget for 2019/20 in an amount of \$6.5 billion, a reduction of 1.8 per cent compared to the Secretary General's proposal, the Committee had agreed to provide adequate funding for the full implementation of mandates and strengthen such key capabilities as strategic planning capacity in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and mediation capacity in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The Secretary General should maintain fiscal discipline throughout the year and improve the functioning and performance of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Therefore, while her delegation welcomed the Committee's provision of additional financial management mechanisms for peacekeeping to allow the Secretary-General to address some of the liquidity issues facing the Organization, it also looked forward to

considering overall improvements in the budget methodology at a subsequent session of the General Assembly.

79. At previous sessions, the Committee had provided policy guidance in such areas of peacekeeping as supply chain management, combating sexual exploitation and abuse, environmental measures, field service delivery and medical support. At the current session, however, it was disappointing that certain Member States had put their parochial, national interests above the greater good of improving peacekeeping and ensuring that the United Nations remained relevant in peace and security. The Committee, in failing to conclude its work by the end of the 2018/19 peacekeeping period, had revealed significant shortcomings in its working methods. The lateness of its decisions would affect operations in the field and result in unnecessary uncertainty and disruption in peacekeeping operations. The Committee must do better. Her delegation supported all United Nations peacekeepers and paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in the cause of peace.

80. **Mr. Otsuka** (Japan) said that it was regrettable that the Committee's work had not been completed in the allotted time. Member States must reflect on the way in which the deliberations had proceeded and adjust the Committee's working methods to conclude future sessions in a timely manner. The failure to complete the work sufficiently by the end of the 2018/19 peacekeeping period was an anomaly that must not be normalized through a lack of effort and efficiency on the Committee's part.

81. His delegation was saddened by the Committee's decision on the report of the Board of Auditors, an independent oversight body whose members were representatives of Member States. The Board's reports gave valuable insight into issues related to the effective, efficient functioning of the United Nations, and it was regrettable that the Committee had taken a decision that could compromise the Board's critical role as an independent auditor and hamper the implementation of the Board's recommendations.

82. A high level of accountability was required in relation to the peacekeeping budget, which amounted to more than double the regular budget in annual terms and often funded activities carried out by non-Secretariat entities. The General Assembly had made an incremental enhancement in accountability for peacekeeping activities, including those conducted by non-mission entities. The Organization must fully and faithfully implement all the Assembly's requests, and resources must be utilized efficiently and effectively to fulfil mission mandates.

83. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution on improving the financial situation of the United Nations. The Secretariat should make the best use of the approved measures and report on their effects in a timely manner. For its part, Japan would continue to fulfil its obligations as a major financial contributor to the Organization.

84. **Mr. Feldman** (Brazil) said that the Committee had taken a good decision on the budgets of peacekeeping missions and their support functions, albeit after the end of the 2018/19 peacekeeping period. While the overall level of the approved peacekeeping budget reflected the Committee's emphasis on fiscal discipline, the allocation of resources among missions was intended to avoid the unfair imposition of reductions on such operations as the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), whose budgets were relatively smaller. That had been made possible by a joint initiative of Latin American and Caribbean countries. As MINUJUSTH transitioned from a peacekeeping operation to a special political mission, Brazil would seek to ensure that mandated tasks, including programmatic activities, remained adequately funded.

85. His delegation welcomed the Committee's decision to reaffirm, in the draft resolutions on MINUJUSTH, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UMISS), that programmatic activities were critical to the implementation of Security Council mandates, reflected the evolution of such mandates and must be funded through assessed contributions. Peacekeeping missions needed not only troops, police and military equipment but also programmatic funding to fulfil Council mandates. The Committee's decision established a solid oversight system for the conduct of programmatic activities in fast-changing operational environments, a system that fully reflected the primacy of political solutions in peacekeeping missions.

86. As a result of the efforts, in which Brazil had participated, to reach consensus on improving the financial situation of the United Nations, a number of positive measures had been approved and a few harmful measures had been rejected. The Secretary-General had proposed, in his latest report on the matter (A/73/809), an even more aggressive transfer of budgetary authority to the Secretariat than in his previous report (A/72/492/Add.1), which the General Assembly had rejected in its resolution 72/266 A. In the draft resolution approved at the current meeting

(A/C.5/73/L.36), the Fifth Committee fully endorsed the recommendation, contained in the Advisory Committee's latest report on the matter (A/73/891), against the approval of the Secretary-General's latest proposal on the grounds that it lacked clarity and that insufficient justification was provided for it. Through the draft resolution, the Fifth Committee also endorsed the Advisory Committee's reaffirmation that such issues as reform of the Charter of the United Nations fell within the purview of the Assembly. His delegation reiterated the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly's budgetary decision-making process under Article 17 of the Charter. The clear message sent at the present meeting by the Member States on the issue of encroachment on the Assembly's prerogatives would provide the Secretariat with lasting, unambiguous guidance as the Fifth Committee sought constructive solutions to the administrative and budgetary challenges facing the Organization.

87. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiola** (Mexico) said that the Committee, working in a spirit of consensus, had approved the resources necessary to finance the active peacekeeping operations established by the Security Council, and the related support services, so that the missions could fulfil their mandates, often in increasingly complex situations in which security was at risk. A large allocation had been approved for MINUJUSTH, which was the only peacekeeping operation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and which would conclude its operations in October 2019, at which time the United Nations would establish a special political mission in Haiti. The Committee had shown, by agreeing on a responsible peacekeeping budget, that it was committed to the Organization's peacekeeping work.

88. Although the second part of the resumed session had, in previous years, usually been dedicated to peacekeeping, the Committee had also discussed, during the second part of the resumed seventy-third session, the Secretary-General's proposals for addressing the liquidity problems that affected the regular and peacekeeping budgets. Mexico welcomed the Committee's approval of the management of the cash balances of all active operations as a pool and the Committee's request that the Secretary-General issue assessment letters for peacekeeping operations for the full budget period approved by the General Assembly. Those measures would address some of the causes of the cash shortfall, allow the Secretariat to honour its commitments and contribute to the fulfilment of mandates.

89. His delegation would have liked the Committee to reach agreement on such cross-cutting issues as gender

and combating harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping. It hoped that the sustained, fruitful dialogue at the second part of the resumed seventy-third session would be a step towards a firm agreement on such issues at the seventy-fourth session.

90. **Mr. Fu Daopeng** (China) said that, against a backdrop of reform of the United Nations system and cash shortfalls in the Organization's budget, the Committee had successfully concluded its deliberations on such important matters as the 2019/20 peacekeeping budget and the improvement of the financial situation. His delegation commended the approval of that budget and of the management of the cash balances of all active operations as a pool, together with the Committee's request that the Secretary-General issue assessment letters for peacekeeping operations for the full budget period approved by the General Assembly. Those achievements were essential to ensuring that the Organization played a core role in global governance and addressing the lack of liquidity in the peacekeeping budget.

91. Finance was the foundation of the Organization's governance. The peacekeeping budget must contain the resources needed for peacekeeping operations to fulfil their mandates from the Security Council. A high priority must be given to the comprehensive management of the performance of that budget, whose internal control system must be strengthened to ensure that funds provided by taxpayers were well spent.

92. As the specialized body of the General Assembly for administrative and budgetary affairs, the Committee had a heavy workload, important responsibilities and a unique role. It should work in a spirit of constructiveness, compromise and consensus, guided by the principles of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, and of mutual respect, assistance and trust, in order to improve its efficiency and results.

93. During the seventy-third session, the Committee had established the basis for the Organization's long-term functioning through its decisions on the reform of the United Nations system, the scales of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and United Nations peacekeeping operations, and improving the Organization's financial situation. However, the failure to make progress on human resources management, the global service delivery model and the liquidation of peacekeeping missions were regrettable.

94. **Mr. Gohar** (Pakistan) said that the Committee had unanimously agreed to finance United Nations peacekeeping operations, which were essential to ending conflicts, forging peace, alleviating suffering

and promoting human rights. The consensus reached on the peacekeeping budget and the improvement of the Organization's financial situation of the United Nations demonstrated an awareness that the United Nations was a beacon of hope worldwide. As one of the most consistent and largest troop-contributing countries, Pakistan stood ready to promote the ideals of United Nations peacekeeping, which were enshrined in the Charter. The thousands of Pakistani peacekeepers deployed worldwide were committed to saving millions of lives threatened by the scourge of war. His delegation was convinced that troop- and police-contributing countries would be reimbursed in a timely manner as a result of the Committee's approval of the Secretary-General's proposal on improving the Organization's financial situation, and looked forward to receiving updates on the matter from time to time.

95. It was unfortunate that the Committee had not reached consensus on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, some of which were related to matters that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was mandated to discuss. The Secretary-General, in his next report on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, should share his views on how to make the best use of triangular cooperation, which was the appropriate tool for ensuring that peacekeeping was a collective undertaking and that decisions related to deployment were based on consultation, preparation and knowledge of the situation on the ground.

96. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana) said that peacekeeping operations were mandated by the Security Council to perform tasks critical to the restoration of peace and stability in conflict-affected countries. The resources allocated by the General Assembly to individual missions, to the backstopping of those missions at Headquarters, and to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, must be adequate to support the fulfilment of the missions' mandates. While his delegation welcomed the consensus reached on the reductions in the peacekeeping budget, it expected the Secretariat to assess the long-term impact and sustainability of those reductions during their implementation. Individual missions were integrated entities with interconnected components, the underfunding of any of which could have undesirable consequences. Like other organizations, the United Nations must ensure not only that peacekeeping strengthened national capacities but also that peacekeepers were safe and secure. In that connection, missions must be adequately supported in the drawdown and transition phases. The United Nations must

effectively build and sustain peace; doing so was essential to sustainable development, and peacebuilding was an important step in that direction. Given the evolving nature of conflict, the Organization must work with other entities to reduce duplication of effort. More partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, were needed to increase efficiency.

97. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that the Committee's rejection of some of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors did not constitute a precedent. Members had rejected those recommendations that encroached on the General Assembly's authority and would continue to do so in the future. His delegation, which attached great importance to the Board's help, would be grateful if the Board would continue to provide such help rather than complicate the Committee's deliberations.

98. **Ms. Graña Coronel** (Uruguay) said that peacekeeping missions were a manifestation of solidarity, one of the Organization's most important values. Beyond differences of opinion and areas in which there was room for improvement, the Committee members' work and commitment had shown the incalculable value of peacekeeping operations.

99. **The Chair** said that the Committee's failure to conclude its work in a timely manner, while regrettable, reflected the increase in its workload, which was likely to become even heavier and necessitate further improvements in the Committee's working methods. It was particularly important to small delegations and representatives with family responsibilities that the Committee complete its work efficiently and effectively, within normal working hours. She welcomed the Committee's achievements at the second part of the resumed session, in particular the approval of draft resolutions on the peacekeeping budget and improving the Organization's financial situation, and paid tribute to the spirit of camaraderie, cooperation, compromise and consensus in which the Committee had conducted its work.

100. She declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the second part of the resumed seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.