



# General Assembly

Seventy-third session

## Official Records

Distr.: General  
14 June 2019

Original: English

---

### Fifth Committee

#### Summary record of the 33rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 6 May 2019, at 10 a.m.

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

### Contents

#### Organization of work

Agenda item 117: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (*continued*)(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions (*continued*)

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

#### *Cross-cutting issues*

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

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

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Agenda item 165: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

19-07368 (E)



Please recycle



*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

### **Organization of work (A/C.5/73/L.30)**

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to consider the proposed tentative and provisional programme of work for the second part of the resumed seventy-third session, established on the basis of the note by the Secretariat on the status of preparedness of documentation (A/C.5/73/L.30). A number of delegations had requested the floor to make statements regarding the programme of work.

2. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in his personal capacity, said he wished to point out that the way in which he had been introduced by the Chair had not accurately reflected the General Assembly's decisions regarding the Chair of the Group of 77 and China for 2019, contained in resolution 73/5, and specifically the right of the State of Palestine to make statements on behalf of the Group. He would be taking the floor not in an observer capacity on behalf of his own delegation, but as the Ambassador of the State of Palestine, the chair of the Group, on behalf of that Group.

3. Speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he paid tribute to the men and women who had served in peacekeeping operations, in particular those who had lost their lives in the service of peace and security. He trusted that the Bureau of the Committee would update the provisional programme of work as required. With regard to the inclusion in the programme of work of the issue of improving the financial situation of the United Nations, he reiterated the Group's position that the second part of the resumed session should focus on the financing of peacekeeping operations. The Committee must conclude its deliberations in a timely manner to ensure that peacekeeping operations were provided with the necessary resources to fulfil their mandates.

4. While the Group acknowledged the efforts of the Bureau to disseminate information as quickly as possible, it was regrettable that a number of reports to be considered at the second part of the resumed session had not been issued in all official languages, hampering delegations' preparations for their deliberations. All stakeholders must pay due regard to multilingualism.

5. The Group attached great importance to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations, in particular cross-cutting issues, closed peacekeeping missions and the peacekeeping support account. At the current part of the resumed session, the Group would focus on ensuring that peacekeeping budgets were based on mission

mandates and the real situation on the ground rather than being approached as an arbitrary, across-the-board cost-cutting exercise; on finding a fair solution to the issue of unpaid assessments, accounts payable and other liabilities of closed peacekeeping missions so as to settle outstanding claims in missions with cash deficits; on addressing comprehensively the systemic challenges faced by troop- and police-contributing countries, and, in that connection, ensuring a fair and realistic reimbursement rate, establishing necessary accommodations for female peacekeepers and guaranteeing adequate representation of troop- and police-contributing countries in Secretariat departments whose work was related to peacekeeping; and, lastly, on minimizing the environmental footprint of missions through the provision of technical support to ensure that existing rules and regulations were translated into specific actions and applied consistently.

6. **Mr. Niang** (Senegal), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group was committed to international peace and security, of which United Nations peacekeeping was a key component. He paid tribute to the personnel of the United Nations and the African Union who had lost their lives in the pursuit of peace and security. It was regrettable that a number of reports to be considered at the second part of the resumed session had not been issued in all official languages in a timely manner, thereby hampering delegations' preparations for their deliberations. The Secretariat must ensure that the six-week rule for the distribution of required documents was observed. The Group trusted that the Bureau would adjust the provisional programme of work as required during the course of discussions to take into account progress made. The Committee must complete its work in the time allotted, so as not to affect the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The inclusion in the programme of work for the current part of the resumed session of matters not related to peacekeeping might result in those matters not receiving adequate consideration. It would be more appropriate, therefore, for them to be considered during other parts of the session.

7. The integrity of the United Nations depended on its ability to fulfil its mandates. With resources becoming increasingly scarce, the Organization must improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability while ensuring that missions had the resources necessary to protect civilians, human rights and the environment. The Secretary-General estimated the financial resources for peacekeeping operations at \$6.637 billion for the 2019/20 period, \$382.2 million lower than the level approved for the 2018/19 period and

\$859.2 million lower than that approved for the 2017/18 period. The figures contained in the Secretary-General's report on the overview of the financing of 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) were subject to change on the basis of ongoing developments in certain missions and the deliberations of the Security Council. The Group trusted that information on the impact of such changes would be provided to the Committee.

8. The Group attached great importance to the allocation of adequate resources to peacekeeping operations, particularly those in Africa, taking into account the complexity of their mandates and the unique challenges they faced. It was worrying that the Organization had reimbursed only half the amount owed to troop- and police-contributing countries in the first quarter of 2019. Delays in reimbursement exposed those countries to financial difficulties and adversely affected operations and mandate implementation. The late payment or non-payment of assessed contributions, including contributions to closed peacekeeping missions, had damaging and lasting implications for peacekeeping operations. The Group urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions.

9. The consideration of peacekeeping budgets should be approached as an exercise not in simple cost reduction but in responsible, policy-driven resource allocation. The Group would review performance reports and budget proposals for all closed and active missions and for the United Nations Support Office in Somalia, the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in conjunction with the findings of such oversight bodies as the Board of Auditors and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Group would also monitor such cross-cutting issues as mission support, Umoja implementation, facilities and infrastructure, oversight, supply chain management and environmental and waste management, which were directly linked to individual mandates. Quick-impact projects and programmatic activities, which were essential to the promotion of sustainable peace in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, should play a more prominent role in peacekeeping operations. Lastly, the Committee should conduct its work in an inclusive and transparent manner, and refrain from negotiations in small configurations behind closed doors.

10. **Mr. De Preter** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union attached great importance to the timely issuance of documentation in all official languages so that the Committee could complete its work in the time allotted. The European Union strongly supported peacekeeping, which was a core task of the Organization. His delegation was committed to ensuring that the United Nations maintained peace and security effectively and accountably, and that peacekeeping missions had the necessary resources to carry out their mandates in increasingly complex environments. While he welcomed the progress made by the Secretary-General in modernizing the Organization, he was concerned about the financial situation and viability of the United Nations. The European Union looked forward to discussing those concerns during the current part of the resumed session, with a view to improving the financial situation of the Organization and finding sustainable solutions for both the programme budget and the peacekeeping budget. United Nations budgetary regulations and rules were intended to respond to the most urgent needs and ensure the strategic allocation of resources. Budgetary instruments should be fit for purpose in order to deliver results. Too often, the Organization's actions were defined by funding streams and budget lines, rather than the strategic realization of common objectives.

11. The European Union would comment later in the session on such cross-cutting aspects of peacekeeping as gender parity, environmental standards, human rights and combating sexual exploitation and abuse. Peacekeeping missions must be adequately financed and cost-efficient, including in terms of civilian staffing components, the capacity to address thematic and political issues and performance measurement. He hoped that the General Assembly would resolve the issue of cash held in the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations. The European Union provided peacekeeping operations with uniformed personnel and strong political support, including for the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The European Union worked closely with the United Nations and the African Union on issues related to peace and security. His delegation was conscious of the shared sense of responsibility that peacekeeping entailed, but also of the clear benefits resulting from active participation in peacekeeping missions. He called upon all Member States to work towards a true peacekeeping partnership as the basis for

their political, financial and operational support for the Organization's peace operations.

12. Recent deadly attacks had drawn attention to the challenging conditions under which United Nations mission personnel worked, and to the importance of safety and security in peacekeeping. He paid tribute to peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the line of duty, and trusted that the Committee would ensure that peacekeeping missions had the necessary resources to fulfil their mandates and that those resources were used effectively, efficiently and in a transparent manner.

13. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) said that her delegation had not so far mentioned in the Fifth Committee the matter of Palestinian representation and Palestinian chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, but in the light of the clarification provided by the Palestinian representative at the current meeting wished now to provide its own clarification. The strong opposition of the United States to Palestinian chairmanship of the Group had been made clear in the explanation of vote delivered by her delegation before the voting on draft resolution [A/73/L.5](#), adopted by the General Assembly as resolution [A/73/5](#) (see [A/73/PV.20](#)). As the United States had explained on that occasion, it did not recognize the existence of a Palestinian State. No such State had been admitted as a State Member of the United Nations. Only Member States should be entitled to speak and act on behalf of major groups of States, such as the Group of 77 and China, and it was inappropriate for an observer to fulfil such a role in the General Assembly or elsewhere in the United Nations system. That position applied to all meetings held at the United Nations or under United Nations auspices at which the Palestinian delegation purported to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

14. Her delegation paid tribute to the men and women who had served in peacekeeping missions, including those who had given their lives in the cause of peace. In the Secretary-General's report on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations ([A/73/776](#)), resource requirements for a six-month period were proposed for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). The Secretary-General's strategic reviews had played an important role in shaping the proposed budgets for UNAMID and MINUJUSTH, as well as in reconfiguring the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Similar reviews should be conducted for all missions. Her delegation looked forward to discussing the use of integrated

planning and resource prioritization to establish the proposed budgets.

15. The allocation of resources to peacekeeping operations was closely linked with effectiveness and efficiency policies. The Committee had been unable to reach consensus on a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues at the previous two sessions. However, given recent high-level initiatives including the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, as part of which 151 Member States had endorsed the Secretary-General's Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations; the independent report, directed by the Secretary-General, entitled "Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers"; and the proposed comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework for peacekeeping operations, the Committee had an opportunity to provide strategic direction to peacekeeping reform through such a draft resolution. Her delegation looked forward to discussing the Secretary-General's efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse and the removal of obstacles to prevention, victim support and accountability.

16. Given that, at the current part of the resumed session, the Committee had peacekeeping-related matters before it for the first time since the General Assembly had endorsed the reform of the Organization and the restructuring of the management and peace and security architecture, 2019 was the year in which the reforms would be fully and properly implemented and benefits would start to be realized. Following the elimination of silos in the peace and security architecture, Member States would benefit from improved coordination between the Secretariat's policy and operational units in addressing threats to international peace and security. To that end, resource-related requests and policies submitted to the Committee should reflect the new reality and specify how resources would be optimally used to promote effective and sustainable political solutions that improved mandate implementation.

17. Similarly, her delegation expected that the implementation of the management reform, through which responsibility would be better aligned with accountability in the field, would result in resource proposals that reflected the realities on the ground and the efforts under way to make more efficient use of peacekeeping resources. The management reform was also expected improve service delivery, efficiency and the support provided to troop- and police-contributing countries. Her delegation looked forward to discussing how the impact of the reforms was reflected in the reports to be considered by the Committee. Lastly, her delegation would consider the Secretary-General's

proposals for improving the financial situation of the United Nations and removing budget management constraints related to liquidity and to broader, long-standing structural problems, with a view to making the Organization more effective, nimble, accountable, transparent and efficient.

18. **Mr. Otsuka** (Japan) said that the peacekeeping budget should be the Committee's top priority during the current part of the resumed session, given that the next fiscal year for peacekeeping operations would start on 1 July 2019. The efficient and accountable management of those operations was essential to the effectiveness, long-term sustainability and credibility of the United Nations.

19. The level of accountability required in relation to the peacekeeping budget was particularly high, but had not been achieved despite the measures taken by the Secretariat. Member States should be provided with detailed information on the activities undertaken by non-mission entities, the division of labour between missions and implementing partners on the basis of their comparative advantages, and resource mobilization methods. His delegation would seek in-depth information on how appropriations financed through assessed contributions were spent and the impact of such expenditure, including in terms of performance. His delegation would use that information to consider the appropriate levels of resources for each mission for the 2019/20 period.

20. His delegation shared the concerns of the Secretary-General regarding the deteriorating financial health of the Organization and would pay close attention to his proposals for addressing the problem. Japan would continue to fulfil its obligations as a major financial contributor to the United Nations, and urged the Secretariat to make judicious use of limited budgetary resources and adhere strictly to budgetary discipline. In considering the proposals of the Secretary-General, Japan would take a cautious approach to requests for Member States to provide additional financial resources.

21. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiola** (Mexico) said that, at the current part of the resumed session, the Committee would take decisions on the allocation of resources to enable peacekeeping operations, which had been established by the Security Council and were essential to international peace and security, to fulfil their mandates. His Government was committed to contributing human and financial resources to peacekeeping operations. All Member States must honour their financial obligations to the Organization and pay their assessed contributions regularly and in

good faith. His delegation would seek to ensure that MINUJUSTH was provided with adequate resources to address challenges on the ground and support Haiti in attaining political and institutional stability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. He paid tribute to the civil, military and police personnel working in peacekeeping operations, often under complex and dangerous circumstances.

22. Combating sexual exploitation and abuse was a top priority for Mexico. His delegation would promote the full implementation of the Organization's zero-tolerance policy towards such abuse, with a particular focus on assisting victims, ending impunity, promoting the involvement of civil society and external partners, and strengthening strategic communications to enhance awareness and transparency.

23. Mexico would give careful consideration to the Secretary-General's report on improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/73/809), which was part of his commitment to making the Organization more effective and agile. In that report, the Secretary-General proposed measures to address budget management constraints related to liquidity and broader structural problems, and requested the General Assembly to end financial uncertainty and the serious situations that had impeded mandate fulfilment in recent years. The Secretary-General's proposals were an opportunity to consolidate the current reform process and must be examined in terms of their impact on the Organization's agility and flexibility, as well as their contribution to making the United Nations more efficient, effective and better able to manage its resources.

24. **Mr. Gohar** (Pakistan) said that the United Nations embodied humanity's aspiration for peace, and that peacekeeping operations, established pursuant to the Organization's Charter, were essential to ending violence. He paid tribute to the men and women who had served under the United Nations flag, in particular those, including 156 peacekeepers from Pakistan, who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Pakistan was one of the largest and most long-standing contributors to peacekeeping, having participated in 46 missions in 28 countries since 1960. Pakistan had been the first country to endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations as part of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, and had recently achieved the goal of ensuring that 15 per cent of its staff officers in peacekeeping missions were women. In addition, the headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which monitored the line of



control in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, was located in Pakistan for six months of the year.

25. United Nations peacekeeping operations were an effective tool for preserving peace, but they must be fit for purpose and relevant to all. As noted by the Secretary-General, even as global challenges were becoming increasingly integrated, the responses of the international community were becoming more and more fragmented, despite the fact that no single country or organization could solve the many problems that the world faced. In an increasingly interconnected world, international cooperation was the only way to address global challenges. The call to achieve more with less was untenable. As at 31 March 2019, an amount of \$265 million was payable to troop- and police-contributing countries. Those outstanding dues must be settled. Strengthening triangular cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat was more important than ever.

26. To ensure that the United Nations was credible, it must be more democratic and represent the interests and views of all States. His delegation supported, therefore, the Secretary-General's proposal that troop contribution be included as an additional factor in the calculation of desirable ranges and in the establishment of the level of representation of troop-contributing countries in Secretariat departments whose work was related to peacekeeping. Fostering political yet inclusive solutions to disputes was critical. Clearly defined mandates would make that task easier. Pakistan would continue to bring hope and security to those affected by conflict.

27. **Mr. Fu Daopeng** (China) said that peacekeeping operations were important for maintaining international peace and security. China, the second largest contributor to the peacekeeping budget and a major troop contributor, with over 2,500 Chinese peacekeepers deployed in eight missions, strongly supported United Nations peacekeeping and paid tribute to all peacekeepers. Financial resources were the foundation of the Organization's governance, and the peacekeeping budget was the basis for ensuring that peacekeeping operations could execute their mandates. The priorities for peacekeeping for the 2019/20 period reflected the eight areas of the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. For the fourth consecutive year, the peacekeeping budget had been reduced. The Committee should take a fact-based, prudent approach to peacekeeping budgeting to provide the necessary financial resources for the fulfilment of Security Council mandates. At the same time, strict financial discipline, tightened budgetary control and strengthened budgetary supervision were essential to improving budgetary performance and making the best

use of every penny contributed by taxpayers. Liquidity shortfalls in the peacekeeping budget had adversely affected the performance of peacekeeping missions, while delays in reimbursement had exacerbated the financial burden borne by troop- and police-contributing countries. Member States must pay their assessed contributions on time. As the second-largest contributor to the peacekeeping budget and a responsible developing country, China had paid all its peacekeeping assessments in full. It called upon all Member States, in particular those with the capacity to do so, to pay such assessments in full, on time and without conditions, and to support the work of the United Nations with concrete actions.

28. **Mr. Koba** (Indonesia) said that peacekeeping was essential to international peace and security. Since 1957, Indonesia had contributed 38,000 troops, deployed to 28 missions. Currently, over 3,000 Indonesian personnel were serving in nine missions. As a major troop- and police-contributing country, Indonesia had a moral obligation to help make peacekeeping operations more effective and efficient. Because of the complexity of peacekeeping mandates, mission personnel must be prepared to deal with the unexpected. Missions must have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates, and peacekeepers should not be asked to do more with less. In the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Member States had undertaken to increase coherence between mandates and resources.

29. Because peacekeeping missions were constantly evolving, more could always be done to make peacekeeping fit for purpose. Peacekeepers should receive training and capacity-building to improve their safety, security and performance. Ensuring that peacekeepers were well-trained, well-equipped and well-informed should be a priority. Indonesia was working closely with the Secretariat to meet peacekeeping needs, and would host training sessions for peacekeepers as part of the triangular partnership project. Troop- and police-contributing countries must be adequately represented among United Nations staff, both in Secretariat departments whose work was related to peacekeeping and in the field. The dedication and sacrifice of the men and women serving in United Nations missions should be credibly recognized by the Organization.

30. **Ms. Graña Coronel** (Uruguay) said that developing countries were making a huge effort to support the Organization by contributing human and material resources. Uruguay itself had contributed over 45,000 personnel over the years, despite its small population. Collective responsibility for maintaining

international peace and security should be demonstrated not only in the Security Council or in General Assembly debates but also in the relevant budgetary and financial bodies, if the peacekeeping system was to continue to operate.

31. Peacekeeping operations must be adequately financed. As a troop- and police-contributing country, Uruguay was concerned about the potential impact of inadequate resourcing, which could hamper mandate implementation, undermine civilian protection efforts and threaten the safety of peacekeeping personnel and premises. On the basis of its experience in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uruguay was of the view that the budget for each peacekeeping mission should be considered individually, in the light of the situation on the ground. The Committee was responsible for approving the resources needed to fund mandate implementation, the support work of the Secretariat and such mandated activities as prevention, monitoring and reporting related to human rights, gender initiatives, programmatic activities and quick-impact projects, all of which had proved effective in protecting the most vulnerable. The Committee must assess the specific tasks carried out in peacekeeping missions, including MONUSCO and MINUJUSTH, on a case-by-case basis. Lastly, her delegation reiterated the General Assembly's request, contained in Assembly resolution [65/293](#), for concrete proposals to address the issue of outstanding dues to troop-contributing countries from closed peacekeeping missions.

32. **Mr. Kalugin** (Russian Federation) said that the Committee's programme of work for the second part of the resumed session consisted to a large extent of matters related to the financing of peacekeeping operations. The Committee also had before it the issue of improving the financial situation of the United Nations. The Committee must complete a significant amount of work in a limited period, and documentation must therefore be issued in good time, in accordance with established rules and procedures. The Secretary-General's proposed peacekeeping budget for the 2019–2020 period was lower than the appropriation approved for the preceding period, and previous peacekeeping budgets had been significantly reduced compared to the Secretary-General's estimates. Efforts to make additional savings should be aimed at improving the efficiency and accountability of the Secretariat, in particular field missions, without prejudice to the fulfilment of Security Council mandates. Given the steady decline in peacekeeping resources, the process by which appropriations were allocated and fully and effectively used to meet the needs of peacekeeping operations should be monitored.

When decisions on the allocation of peacekeeping funds were taken, all aspects of each mission's activities should be taken into account.

33. His delegation looked forward to discussing the Secretary-General's proposals for improving the financial situation of the United Nations. In accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, four indicators could be used to indicate the financial position of the Organization, but the Secretary-General was guided by only one, which he had in fact taken out of context: the cash-flow deficit in the regular budget as of October 2018. The other three indicators remained positive, as confirmed by the Board of Auditors. The Organization was not in financial crisis and its financial situation was sound, although it faced problems related to dues outstanding to troop-contributing countries from closed peacekeeping operations and the possible recurrence in autumn 2019 of the cash deficit in the regular budget. Many of the Secretary-General's proposals for the improvement of the Organization's financial situation seemed unrealistic because they treated the symptoms of the disease rather than its fundamental cause, the huge payments owed by a number of Member States. A technical solution that did not require Members States to pay more than their assessed contributions must be found.

34. The Committee had before it at the current part of the resumed session two interdependent matters, improving the financial situation of the United Nations and closed peacekeeping missions, which must be discussed together, since the Secretary-General's related reports contained intersecting sets of proposals. The interests of all Member States, including troop-contributing countries, the largest financial contributors and States with outstanding contributions, must be taken into account. To achieve consensus and save time, the Committee should focus on improving the Organization's financial situation in ways that would be acceptable to every Member State.

35. **Mr. Bamyia** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was the prerogative of the Group of 77 and China to designate and elect its Chair. To enable Palestine to perform the duties of the Chair of the Group, the previous Chair of the Group had sponsored, on behalf of the Member States that were members of the Group, draft resolution [A/73/L.5](#), adopted by the General Assembly as resolution [73/5](#), which provided Palestine with additional rights in the exercise of its duties as Chair of the Group for 2019.

36. Palestine was committed to upholding the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of procedure of the

General Assembly and United Nations resolutions, all of which governed relations among Member States. Palestine would seek neither more nor less than what was set out in those documents.

37. His delegation acknowledged that some Member States did not recognize the State of Palestine, and accepted that the bilateral relations between Palestine and other Member States differed from one Member State to another. However, his delegation, in its capacity as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, had pledged to work constructively and in the same manner with all Member States, regardless of whether they recognized the State of Palestine and irrespective of the status of their bilateral relations with Palestine. His delegation had a responsibility to the Group to ensure that such factors did not influence its work as Chair. Palestine had engaged constructively with all delegations during the first part of the resumed session and would do its utmost to maintain that engagement during the current part of the session.

38. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed programme of work on the understanding that adjustments would be made as necessary during the course of the session.

39. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 117: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments**  
(continued)

**(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions** (continued)  
(A/73/102/Add.3)

40. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to a note by the Secretary-General (A/73/102/Add.3) informing the General Assembly of the resignation of Ms. Yoon Seongmee (Republic of Korea) from the Committee on Contributions, effective 4 April 2019. The Government of the Republic of Korea had nominated Mr. Na Sang Deok, whose candidature had been endorsed by the Group of Asia-Pacific States, to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office, which would expire on 31 December 2020. She took it that the Committee wished to recommend the candidate's appointment by acclamation.

41. *Mr. Na Sang Deok (Republic of Korea), for the Asia-Pacific States, was recommended by acclamation for appointment to the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment by the General Assembly and expiring on 31 December 2020.*

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

*Cross-cutting issues* (A/73/324 (Part II), A/73/744 and A/73/828)

42. **Mr. Kanja** (Assistant Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing 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)), said that OIOS had issued 252 oversight reports relating to peace operations in 2018. They included 595 recommendations, 9 of which had been classified as critical.

43. During the reporting period, the Internal Audit Division had enhanced its tools and methodology by working with other divisions to improve its approach to auditing performance and its capacity to address fraud risks, and had strengthened its capacity in data analytics and such high-risk areas as cybersecurity. The Division would build on other multi-year initiatives, including the assessment of the impact of organizational culture on the attainment of results. In 2019, the Division would contribute to the implementation of the Secretary-General's management reforms by providing independent advice on change management initiatives, enterprise risk management and the new delegation of authority framework. A large proportion of the audits conducted in 2018 had indicated areas in which management needed to improve internal controls and programme implementation. Those audits had assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations and the implementation of adequate policies and instructions, and had determined whether strategic planning, risk management, monitoring and oversight activities were appropriate. The Division had issued 78 audit reports and 448 recommendations, 2 of which had been classified as critical.

44. The Investigations Division had streamlined its procedures for receiving, processing and addressing complaints of sexual harassment through a victim-centred approach, in line with the Secretary-General's commitment to zero tolerance of such harassment. To strengthen the related investigations, OIOS had recruited investigators specialized in sexual harassment to six newly established posts and had conducted four training courses for national officers tasked with investigating misconduct by uniformed peacekeepers. In partnership with the Office of Human Resources Management, the Division had delivered three courses to train staff to investigate allegations of prohibited



conduct as part of a fact-finding panel established pursuant to the Secretary-General's bulletin on the prohibition of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority (ST/SGB/2008/5). The Division chaired the United Nations Representatives of Investigation Services standing task force on improving the investigation of sexual exploitation and abuse, and had led the development of uniform principles and guidelines for investigations of such abuse. In 2018, the Division had issued 172 reports, including 81 investigation reports, 58 contingent reports and 33 closure reports, an increase compared to the 125 reports issued in 2017. The Division had referred 243 matters to more appropriate offices or entities for possible action. At the end of 2018, it had been investigating 104 cases, 17 per cent more than at the end of 2017. The largest proportion of the reports issued in 2018, 40 per cent, or 70 reports, had related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

45. The Inspection and Evaluation Division had issued two reports related to peace operations, including one evaluation report on the rehatting of the African Union forces in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), and one inspection report on missions' operational responses to incidents related to the protection of civilians. The Division had established its first field presence at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe by deploying three evaluation officers there, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/295. The Division also conducted comprehensive risk assessments of peacekeeping operations and mandates, in accordance with its workplan and in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

46. Efforts to address vacancy rates throughout OIOS had continued through the enhancement of recruitment strategies and the increased use of rosters for staff selection. The overall vacancy rate for the Office as at the end of March 2019 had been 13 per cent and was expected to improve after the completion of the onboarding procedures for candidates selected to fill vacancies in, inter alia, the Investigations Division.

47. **Ms. Thanabalasingam** (Office of Human Resources), introducing the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/73/744), said that, in response to the General Assembly's requests in its resolutions 71/278, 71/297 and 72/312, the report contained a comprehensive update on the reports submitted by the Secretary-General at the Assembly's seventy-first and

seventy-second sessions on the implementation of his strategy to prevent and respond to such abuse at the United Nations. The report set out the system-wide progress made in the area by prioritizing victims' rights and dignity, ending impunity, engaging with Member States and external partners and improving strategic communications to help the implementation of the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy.

48. In implementing the strategy, the Secretary-General had taken measures under his own authority on the basis of a victim-centred approach. To improve accountability, he had requested senior managers to provide him with annual action plans for addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, and had asked the members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) to send him management letters certifying that all allegations of such abuse had been reported and the related mandatory training delivered. Clear Check, an electronic tool for managing the risk of rehiring perpetrators of such abuse, had been launched in 2018. The Civil Society Advisory Board had recently been established to deepen the Organization's engagement with external experts. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee had redoubled its efforts to improve the alignment of the humanitarian sector with the Secretary-General's strategy. Partnerships with Member States had been strengthened through such initiatives as the circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations, the voluntary compact on measures for preventing and responding to such abuse and the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

49. The prevention of and appropriate response to sexual exploitation and abuse remained a priority for the United Nations system. Although approaches had been harmonized in line with the Secretary-General's strategy, more effort and attention were essential. The Secretary-General was grateful to Member States for engaging in efforts to end such abuse. Through the strategy, which entrenched his zero-tolerance policy, he aimed to achieve a cultural transformation throughout the system, which comprised more than 90,000 staff in over 30 entities, and more than 100,000 uniformed personnel. Ending such abuse would require constant vigilance and coordination.

50. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/73/828), said that the Secretary-General had increased, across the United Nations system, awareness and engagement regarding such abuse and commitment to countering it, and, in his report, had made no specific

proposals with additional budgetary implications. More effort should be made through CEB to adopt a whole-of-system approach to addressing such abuse. The Advisory Committee was concerned about the significant increase in the number of cases of such abuse reported in entities other than peacekeeping missions and encouraged the Secretary-General to make further preventive efforts. In that regard, it noted the development of the United Nations protocol on allegations of such abuse involving implementing partners.

51. The General Assembly had reaffirmed the collective and unanimous position that one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was too many, and its commitment to the zero-tolerance policy on such abuse throughout the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes. More focus was needed on the nature rather than purely on the number of allegations, in particular in egregious cases. The standards applicable to United Nations uniformed personnel should be harmonized, and should apply equally to non-United Nations international forces. The Secretary-General's report did not contain information on the human and financial resources dedicated to the system-wide prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. More effort should be made to identify those resources.

52. **Mr. De Preter** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the States members of the European Union fully supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse, and thanked the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, the Victims' Rights Advocate and field staff for their work. United Nations personnel must never harm those whom they were responsible for protecting. The European Union called for an end to impunity for civilian, military and police personnel whose conduct ran counter to the fundamental principles and values of the United Nations.

53. He welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy, and looked forward to an integrated system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Organization should deliver as one, on the basis of a coherent, victim-centred approach. He also welcomed the Secretary-General's management reform, to which accountability of managers and personnel for misconduct was essential. The European Union was committed to cooperating with

partners, troop-contributing countries and stakeholders on a long-term basis to ensure that prevention was strengthened, allegations were duly investigated in a timely fashion, justice was served and victims received the support they deserved. The Secretary-General should give a high priority to the matter, and Member States should support him in that effort. The European Union supported the work of OIOS and looked forward to discussing in informal consultations the report of the Office on its activities on peace operations for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018 ([A/73/324 \(Part II\)](#)).

54. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) said that, although her delegation welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, more remained to be done. One incident of such abuse was too many, and the United States condemned those who exploited those whom they were responsible for assisting and protecting. Such abuse was not confined to peacekeeping, and her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to address it throughout the system, including through the work of the Special Coordinator and the Victims' Rights Advocate and the establishment of the High-level Steering Group on preventing such abuse. Her delegation would seek further information about the ways in which the integration of the Conduct and Discipline Service into the Administrative Law Division as part of the Secretary-General's management reform had improved the performance of the related functions and the Secretariat-wide provision of the related services.

55. Although the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations had decreased, her delegation was concerned about persistent under-reporting. It welcomed the provision by the Secretary-General in his report of detailed information on the adoption, by United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes, and by the humanitarian community, of best practices, particularly in peacekeeping. The United States supported the work of the Special Coordinator and the Victims' Rights Advocate, in particular efforts to provide an overview of shortcomings in services for victims. It welcomed the increased focus on, and transparency regarding, allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving implementing partners, which, given the rise in the number of reported allegations, clearly remained a great risk for vulnerable populations. United Nations entities must make more effort to monitor such abuse involving their implementing partners.

56. Her delegation was concerned about the lack of criminal accountability for civilian staff who had committed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, and

about the long time for which many investigations of such abuse remained pending. Member States should swiftly and credibly address criminal allegations of such abuse involving their nationals, and should report thereon to the Secretariat to demonstrate their commitment to accountability. Her delegation appreciated the contributions of OIOS to the improvement of peacekeeping. The Office conducted such essential activities as audits of programme implementation in United Nations departments and field missions, investigations of serious misconduct and fraud, evaluations of such peacekeeping policy issues as mission rehatting, and inspections related to the protection by missions of civilian activities. Her delegation would work constructively to reach consensus on a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues that would help the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations departments and entities oversee peacekeeping operations and protect vulnerable populations from sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus** ([A/73/615](#), [A/73/738](#) and [A/73/755/Add.5](#))

**Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo** ([A/73/613](#), [A/73/733](#) and [A/73/755/Add.4](#))

**Agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East**

**(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon** ([A/73/627](#), [A/73/735](#) and [A/73/755/Add.2](#))

**Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara** ([A/73/617](#), [A/73/737](#) and [A/73/755/Add.1](#))

**Agenda item 165: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur** (*continued*) ([A/73/653](#), [A/73/755/Add.10](#) and [A/73/785](#))

57. **Mr. Guazo** (Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget), introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/615](#)) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/738](#)) for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), said that the proposed 2019/20 budget of \$51.4 million was 2.9 per cent lower than the approved 2018/19 budget. The decrease was attributable to the completion, in the first half of 2019, of the construction of accommodation for military personnel, the

application of a lower exchange rate between the euro and the dollar, lower salary costs for international staff, and fewer flight hours for patrol and observation operations. The Force would continue to establish conditions conducive to a settlement agreement by supporting liaison and engagement by all components with the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sides through intercommunal contacts and confidence-building measures to maintain stability and calm.

58. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/613](#)) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/733](#)) for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), he said that the proposed 2019/20 budget of \$37.2 million was 0.1 per cent higher than the approved 2018/19 budget. The mission would consolidate peace, security, the rule of law and stability in Kosovo and the surrounding region and would, in 2019, promote initiatives, particularly in relation to intercommunity trust-building, human rights and the rule of law, that would help fulfil its mandate. To reduce its environmental footprint, UNMIK would focus on energy efficiency, recycling, tree planting and awareness-raising.

59. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/627](#)) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/735](#)) for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), he said that the proposed 2019/20 budget of \$485.2 million was 2.3 per cent higher than the 2018/19 approved budget, as a result of increased requirements for the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, the first year of the proposed implementation of the Force's five-year asset replacement plan, and the higher estimated cost of fuel. The Force would focus on restoring international peace and security in southern Lebanon and implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). In addition, pursuant to resolution 2433 (2018), UNIFIL would increase its presence within its existing mandate and capabilities, and enhance its coordination with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

60. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/617](#)) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/737](#)) for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), he said that the proposed 2019/20 budget of \$56.4 million was 7.7 per cent higher than the approved resources for 2018/19. MINURSO would continue its observation and monitoring activities to ensure that the parties complied with the ceasefire agreement. The mission would also support the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for

Western Sahara during his visits to the region and facilitate the implementation of the programme of confidence-building measures led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, when the programme resumed.

61. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/73/653) and the note on financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 (A/73/785) for UNAMID, he said that the Secretary-General proposed financing arrangements in the amount of \$269.9 million for the six-month period until 31 December 2019, which would be a period of consolidation as the Secretary-General awaited the Security Council's decisions on the scope and pace of the reconfiguration and the modalities for the drawdown of UNAMID during the latter part of the 2019/20 period. The Operation would collaborate with the United Nations country team through the State liaison functions to undertake programmatic activities, in accordance with the transition concept endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 2429 (2018). In view of the Operation's envisaged exit in June 2020, UNAMID would undertake critical operational activities, including environmental clean-up and bioremediation.

62. **Mr. Terzi** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNFICYP (A/73/755/Add.5), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed budget be reduced by \$125,400. With regard to civilian personnel, the Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed upward reclassification of one P-3 post. With regard to operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommended reductions under ground transportation, consultants and training. With regard to ground transportation, the Advisory Committee trusted that the number of UNFICYP vehicles would be aligned with the prescribed standard ratios and that the Secretary-General would include information on the matter in the 2018/2019 budget performance report for the Force. The Advisory Committee's recommendations on the actions to be taken by the General Assembly in relation to UNFICYP were set out in section V of its report. The Advisory Committee welcomed the environmental initiatives taken by UNFICYP and commended the Force on achieving gender balance among its international staff.

63. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNMIK (A/73/755/Add.4), he said that the Advisory Committee was concerned about the continuing deterioration of the mission's cash position.

64. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNIFIL (A/73/755/Add.2), he said that, as the Force already had three senior officials at the D-2 level, the Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed establishment of the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) post. With regard to operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$300,000 in the proposed resource requirements for facilities and infrastructure, and a reduction of \$50,000 in the proposed requirements for information and communications technology. The Advisory Committee was of the view that the comprehensive five-year asset replacement plan prepared by the Force could be replicated in all missions where a significant proportion of assets were approaching the end of their usable life.

65. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on MINURSO (A/73/755/Add.1), he said that the Advisory Committee was concerned about the continuing deterioration of the mission's cash position. The General Assembly had repeatedly urged all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations, on time, in full and without conditions. The Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of 5 per cent in the proposed requirements for petrol, oil and lubricants for ground transportation, in view of the planned reduced length of ground patrols and the high level of the proposed fuel reserve.

66. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNAMID (A/73/755/Add.10), he said that, in view of the pattern of expenditure and current downsizing of UNAMID, the proposed level of resources for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019 might not be fully justified in several areas. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the proposed resources be reduced by \$2.5 million and that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$267.4 million, to be assessed if the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the mission. The mission should provide professional and vocational training to build the capacities of national staff affected by the downsizing, and take environmental clean-up measures in anticipation of the closure and handover of its sites. With regard to the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 for UNAMID (A/73/653), the Advisory Committee recommended that the unencumbered balance, together with other income and adjustments of \$12.6 million, be credited to Member States.

67. **Ms. Plakalovic** (Serbia) said that her delegation attached great importance to the activities of UNMIK in Kosovo and Metohija because of the mission's status-



neutral approach, based on Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Serbia had consistently supported the principles of international law and had called for the resolution to be respected, but some of the resolution's main objectives had not been achieved; the political and security situation in the province was unstable, tensions were high and incidents were frequent. Serbs and other Non-Albanians, however, continued to trust the mission, which must ensure that the resolution was fully and consistently implemented.

68. The mission had failed to carry out one of its main tasks, the return of Serbs and other non-Albanians to Kosovo and Metohija. Over 200,000 internally displaced persons continued to live in Serbia 20 years after the establishment of the mission, and her delegation was particularly concerned about the data contained in the Secretary-General's latest report on UNMIK (S/2019/102), according to which only 32 internally displaced Serbs had returned voluntarily to Kosovo and Metohija in the reporting period. Ethnically motivated attacks on Serbs and their property continued on a daily basis. Many such incidents were intended to intimidate returnees and let them know that they were not welcome.

69. The mission was essential to the implementation of the agreements reached between Belgrade and Pristina through the European-Union-facilitated dialogue; such implementation had stopped because of a lack of inter-ethnic trust. To achieve reconciliation and regional stabilization, Serbia had contributed to efforts to reach a compromise that would bring stability, economic development and a better life for all inhabitants of Kosovo and Metohija. The government of Kosovo, however, had violated the agreements in an attempt to end the dialogue. It had failed to fulfil its obligations, including the establishment of a community of Serb-majority municipalities, had imposed 100 per cent tariffs on Serbian goods and had adopted a law transforming the Kosovo Security Force into the so-called Kosovo Armed Forces. Only the European-Union-facilitated negotiations could resolve the outstanding issues, and, accordingly, Serbia had taken no measures to aggravate the situation, and instead continued to seek sustainable compromises through dialogue. In view of the complex circumstances in which UNMIK performed its mandate, its budget must be maintained or increased. As any deterioration in the situation might increase the mission's costs, her delegation would seek to ensure in informal consultations that UNMIK had adequate personnel and financial resources to carry out its mandate.

70. It was regrettable that, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out in its report, 24 posts, including 18

international posts, were vacant, and that 2 posts had been vacant for over two years. Those figures were extremely high for a mission with only 355 civilian personnel. The situation ran counter to the General Assembly resolutions on mission budgets, and the Secretariat should fill the posts as soon as possible. Serbia did not agree with the Advisory Committee that posts vacant for two years or longer should be re-evaluated to establish whether they were needed. Rather, the posts should be filled without delay, and a re-evaluation exercise should be conducted to establish the reasons for which they had remained vacant for so long, even though the related funds had been approved. The current vacancy rate, which resulted from the postponement of recruitment by the Secretariat, should not be a parameter in the establishment of the 2020/2021 budget. Her delegation trusted that the proposed appropriation for programmatic activities and confidence-building projects would be approved in full.

71. **Mr. Mohammed** (Sudan) said that his Government was grateful for the understanding that the members of the Security Council had shown in developing an exit strategy for UNAMID and ensuring the success of the mission; the political, humanitarian and security situation had stabilized throughout Darfur, as the Council had acknowledged in many reports and field visits and by adopting resolutions 2363 (2017) and 2429 (2018). To restore law and order, his Government had provided additional resources for the police force, the prison system and the judiciary across Darfur.

72. The recent developments in the political situation in the Sudan had been brought about through a peaceful revolution and the civilized conduct of the Sudanese people. That popular movement, which had lasted four months, had resulted in a rapid transition to democracy, completed in a manner commensurate with the challenges facing the country. Contrary to expectations in some quarters, the effects of those developments on Darfur would be positive. The Sudan was committed to the international and regional charters, treaties and conventions to which it was a party, including its agreements with the United Nations and, in particular, those related to UNAMID, and looked forward to cooperating with the Secretariat and the Security Council to enable the exit of the mission in June 2020 and the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in Darfur in accordance with resolution 2429 (2018).

73. Peacebuilding and stabilization were essential to repairing the destruction wrought during many years of conflict in Darfur. They would be achieved through development that addressed the causes and consequences of conflict, together with the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and other



factors. International institutions, United Nations agencies and programmes and donor countries must provide his Government with financial and development support for recovery, peacebuilding and reconstruction, and a pledging conference must be held to support projects related to recovery and stability, as emphasized by the participants in the high-level meeting held in New York in September 2018 on the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and development in Darfur.

74. It was imperative that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal that an amount of \$19.6 million, representing an increase compared with the apportionment for 2018/2019, be appropriated to prepare for the mission's exit and, subsequently, to enable the United Nations country team to conduct programmatic activities. The reduction of the mission's environmental footprint was of great importance, as the Advisory Committee had repeatedly stated in its reports, but UNAMID had not met that requirement in the areas of environmental clean-up and bioremediation activities and the safe disposal of waste. An environmental impact assessment of all UNAMID sites should be conducted jointly with his Government, the lessons learned should be applied, and the Secretary-General should provide an update on the results in the next budget proposal for the mission. With regard to capacity-building for national staff, all posts should be re-evaluated, good use should be made of national staff, international posts should be reclassified as local posts to achieve the required savings, and the budgeted vacancy rate for international staff should be based on actual vacancy rates. A large number of Sudanese nationals had worked in UNAMID for many years, some of them at senior levels; before the exit of the mission, they must be placed in international posts as part of the effort to build the capacities of local staff. The Sudan would continue to cooperate with the United Nations, the African Union and UNAMID to bring peace and protect civilians, foster development and reconstruction and smoothly transfer the mission's tasks to the United Nations country team.

*The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.*