



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 November 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 165

Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Donation of assets of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to the Government of the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides details on the proposed donation of assets owned by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to the Government of the Sudan, in line with the provisions of financial regulation 5.14 (e) of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The net book value of the UNAMID assets proposed for donation to the Government of the Sudan as at 1 July 2021 amounted to \$55,291,700 (acquisition cost of \$145,456,300).

The action to be taken by the General Assembly, as set out in section III of the present report, is to approve the donation of UNAMID assets to the Government of the Sudan.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 13 December 2021.



I. Introduction

1. The mandate of the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established by the Security Council in its resolution [1769 \(2007\)](#) dated 31 July 2007. In its resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), the Council decided to terminate the mandate of UNAMID by 31 December 2020 and requested the Secretary-General to commence the drawdown of UNAMID personnel on 1 January 2021 and to complete the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian UNAMID personnel by 30 June 2021, other than those required for the mission's liquidation.

2. In the same resolution, the Security Council took note of the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on UNAMID and a follow-on presence ([S/2020/1115](#)). In paragraph 45 of that report, the Council was informed that the environmental clean-up, the removal of the Operation's footprint and the repatriation from closed locations of staff, troops and police would take an estimated six months, subject to the exigencies of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the rainy season. In the meantime, the El Fasher logistics base and a small team in Khartoum would provide the residual operational capacity required to liquidate the Operation.

3. By the present report, the approval of the General Assembly is sought for the disposition of UNAMID assets through donation, in line with the provisions of financial regulation 5.14 (e) of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, which stipulates that any assets that have been installed in a country and that, if dismantled, would set back the rehabilitation of that country are to be provided to the duly recognized Government of that country in return for compensation in a form to be agreed by the Organization and the Government. This refers, in particular, to airfield installations and equipment, buildings, bridges and mine-clearing equipment. Where such assets cannot be disposed of in this manner or otherwise, they are to be contributed free of charge to the Government of the country concerned. Such contributions require the prior approval of the General Assembly.

4. By 30 June 2021, UNAMID had successfully completed all drawdown activities, as guided by resolution [2559 \(2020\)](#), formed a cross-sectional liquidation management team and finalized the liquidation planning. On 1 July 2021, it commenced implementing liquidation activities. Taking into consideration progress made by UNAMID during the period from 1 July to 14 September 2021 and the analysis of the remaining workload to be completed in the field, as well as the precarious security situation on the ground, including with regard to signatory armed groups surrounding the El Fasher logistics base, United Nations Headquarters instructed the Operation to plan for an accelerated departure from El Fasher. Those activities would include the drawdown and repatriation of the United Nations Guard Unit and the majority of civilian personnel, the disposition of the remaining assets and the handover of the El Fasher logistics base.

5. In the context of the framework agreement for the handover of UNAMID team sites and assets exclusively for civilian use signed by UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan on 4 March 2021, the Operation engaged with the Government's joint task force, the Governor of the Darfur region and the Governors of the five Darfur states to recommend the development of a holistic Sudanese-owned plan for the disposal of assets in support of the national priorities of the Government of the Sudan, in particular the implementation of the National Plan for the Protection of Civilians. Experts from the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) and the United Nations country team have provided advice on potential beneficiaries and needs that could be addressed; however, final decisions in that regard lie with the host Government.

6. Following a meeting of the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support with the host Government during his visit to the Sudan in July 2021 and subsequent consultations held with the Government's joint task force, representatives of the Office of the Governor of the Darfur region and the Darfur state governments, as well as representatives from UNITAMS and the United Nations country team, a document containing agreed outcome and action points was signed between the joint task force and UNAMID on 25 August 2021, in which they agreed on the plan for the disposal of UNAMID assets, including through donation to the duly recognized Government of the Sudan, in accordance with financial regulation 5.14 (e).

7. The plan was formally endorsed by the Government of the Sudan, whereby the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested, through a note verbale dated 7 September 2021, the contribution, free of charge, of UNAMID assets in support of the National Plan for Protection of Civilians. Furthermore, through a letter dated 12 September 2021, the Governor of North Darfur State presented his long-term plan for the utilization of the UNAMID El Fasher logistics base for civilian purposes.

II. Donation of assets to the Government of the Sudan

8. During the first phase of the liquidation period, from July to September 2021, the Operation initiated the transfer of some assets to other United Nations field operations and the United Nations reserve, on the basis of indicated requirements and cost-benefit analysis, in line with United Nations policies and considering the remaining useful life of and transportation cost for those assets. In parallel, the Operation is expected to complete, by 31 October 2021, the commercial and direct sale of other assets to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other international and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the pertinent host State authorities. After exhausting all possibilities for transfers and sales, the assets, such as airfield installations, buildings and bridges, will be donated to the Government of the Sudan. Those assets are installed at the El Fasher logistics base and, by virtue of land lease agreements with the North Darfur State government, which is the owner of the land, the property will be handed over to the North Darfur government.

9. The assets to be donated could not be disposed of in any other way, as they are immovable, they are uneconomical to recover, and there is no demonstrated requirement from other operations, the United Nations reserve or United Nations agencies, funds or programmes. The removal of such assets would set back the rehabilitation of the Sudan, and the Darfur region in particular, and would require the restoration of the land and premises to their original condition, which would not be in the best interests of the Organization. Accordingly, it is proposed that the assets be donated free of charge to the Government of the Sudan as indicated in the table below.

Summary of the assets proposed for donation to the Government of the Sudan

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Asset class</i>	<i>Asset subclass</i>	<i>Acquisition cost</i>	<i>Net book value</i>
Buildings	Fixed buildings	28 405.6	21 475.5
	Prefabricated buildings	32 609.6	687.0
Infrastructure assets	Infrastructure assets	84 441.1	33 129.2
Total		145 456.3	55 291.7

10. In order to accelerate the completion of the major UNAMID liquidation activities, the Operation has adopted a phased approach for transferring elements of the El Fasher logistics base, along with the coordinated transfer of the security arrangements for the camp to the Sudanese Police Force from the Guard Unit authorized by the Security Council. Such an approach is critical for enabling the sustainable operation of the camp sectors by the identified end-users, while meeting the Operation's environmental responsibilities through robust environmental clean-up, the bioremediation of contaminated soil and the implementation of long-term environmental monitoring. The Operation is also undertaking activities towards building capacity for North Darfur State to manage and operate the logistics base in a sustainable manner. Capacity-building activities include bringing both civilian end-users and Sudanese Police Force personnel into the sectors of the El Fasher logistics base during preparations for their handover and engaging host Government personnel in the logistics base infrastructure maintenance activities. Following the handover of all installed assets, the Government of the Sudan, through the regional Governor of Darfur and the Governor of North Darfur, will assume full responsibility for the management and operation of the base.

11. Building on best practices stemming from the phased handover of previous UNAMID locations, and in order to achieve the responsible and sustainable transfer of the El Fasher logistics base, which has been divided into sectors to facilitate the phased handover and gradual transfer of ownership to the Government of the Sudan, the Operation already placed, on 2 August and 29 September 2021, two camp sectors, with all the assets located there, under the temporary custody of the North Darfur government, on behalf of the Government of the Sudan. One sector will be used as the teaching hospital, the Faculty of Medicine and the College of Information Technology of El Fasher University, and the other will be used as a training centre for female police officers. The placement of assets under temporary custody was necessary to ensure that the base, which covers a significant land area with multiple structures and assets, would be closed and handed over to the Government of the Sudan and dedicated civilian end-users in a suitably timely manner. This approach also enhances the internal security of UNAMID personnel and assets, based on the lessons learned from previous handovers of Operation locations. Timing for the final handover will be subject to further deliberations with the Government of the Sudan. The net book value of the assets thus placed under temporary custody amounted to \$5.5 million (acquisition cost of \$19.6 million) and included fixed buildings, prefabricated buildings and infrastructure assets.

III. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

12. The action to be taken by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session in connection with the financing of UNAMID is to approve the donation of assets owned by the Operation, with a net book value of \$55,291,700 (acquisition cost of \$145,456,300), to the Government of the Sudan.
