



# General Assembly

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### Proposed programme budget for 2024

## Proposed programme budget for 2024

### Part II

#### Political affairs

#### Section 3

##### Political affairs

##### Special political missions

##### United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

### Seventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2024

## I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Question has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed resource requirements for 2024 for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 7 August 2023.

2. The Secretary-General, in addendum 1 to section 3, Political affairs, of his report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2024 for 39 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Detailed information in respect of each special political mission is contained in five addenda to section 3 of the proposed programme budget.<sup>1</sup> The addenda cover the specific requirements for missions

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\* [A/78/150](#).

<sup>1</sup> [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#) and [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#).



presented in thematic clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and UNAMI.

3. The resource requirements of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar (cluster I), whose mandate emanates from the General Assembly, are included in the report of the Secretary-General under cluster I, in order to consolidate the overall resource requirements for all special political missions, while the mandate of the Office will be brought to the attention of the Assembly, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

4. The Advisory Committee addresses issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to special political missions in its main report ([A/78/7/Add.1](#)), while its specific comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in separate related reports.<sup>2</sup>

## **II. Budget performance for 2022 and 2023 and resource requirements for 2024**

### **A. Mandate and planning assumptions**

5. In its resolution [2682 \(2023\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 May 2024. The report of the Secretary-General provides information on the Mission's programme plan, assumptions and planned results (see [A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), sect. I.A). As indicated in paragraphs 1 to 10 of that report, UNAMI is responsible for the provision of advice, support and assistance to the Government and people of Iraq on advancing inclusive, political dialogue and reconciliation at the national and community levels. In 2024, UNAMI will, inter alia, continue to provide outreach and good offices for the promotion of an inclusive political system, support dialogue on ongoing disputes regarding internal boundaries, advise the Government on constitutional review and advise and assist with electoral processes. UNAMI will also encourage regional dialogue and cooperation, including on issues of border security, energy, environment, climate change and refugees. Support will be provided to the Government and people of Iraq in advancing community and national reconciliation; implementing the women and peace and security agenda and gender mainstreaming; and promoting accountability. The Mission will also support the protection of human rights and the rule of law as well as the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD).

### **B. Budget performance for 2022 and 2023**

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the proposed resource requirements for 2024 for UNAMI, compared with the resources approved for 2022 and 2023, as well as the expenditure incurred in 2022 and in the period from January to June 2023, as summarized in table 1.

<sup>2</sup> [A/78/7/Add.2](#), [A/78/7/Add.3](#), [A/78/7/Add.4](#), [A/78/7/Add.5](#) and [A/78/7/Add.6](#).

**Table 1**  
**Budget performance and total resource requirements**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2022		2023		2024	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure (January–June)	Total requirements	2024 vs. 2023 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
Military and police personnel costs	5 140.3	5 367.3	4 939.7	4 245.9	5 099.8	160.1
Civilian personnel costs	79 333.5	80 140.9	75 964.9	39 273.7	76 954.5	989.6
Operational costs	13 199.4	12 706.6	16 006.0	9 105.6	16 408.1	402.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>97 673.2</b>	<b>98 214.8</b>	<b>96 910.6</b>	<b>52 625.3</b>	<b>98 462.4</b>	<b>1 551.8</b>

7. Expenditure in 2022 amounted to \$98,214,800, reflecting an overexpenditure of \$541,600, or 0.55 per cent, against an appropriation of \$97,673,200. This overexpenditure reflects overexpenditures under military contingents (\$227,000) and civilian personnel (\$807,500), which were offset in part by underexpenditures under operational costs (\$492,800). The information provided to the Advisory Committee indicated that:

(a) The overexpenditure of \$227,000 was broadly in line with budget expectations;

(b) The overexpenditure of \$807,500 under personnel resulted from overexpenditures for National Professional Officers (\$515,100) and personnel at the Local level (\$382,800) owing to the application of updated salary scales. These overexpenditures were offset in part by underexpenditures under international staff (\$76,600) and United Nations Volunteers (\$13,900);

(c) The underexpenditure of \$492,800 under operational costs resulted from underexpenditures under official travel (\$58,500), communications and information technology (\$168,000), medical (\$170,600) and other supplies, services and equipment (\$1,295,800). These underexpenditures were offset in part by overexpenditures under consultants and consulting services (\$103,800) owing to the erroneous recording of expenditures for individual contractors under consultants; facilities and infrastructure (\$744,200), owing to additional requirements for the renovation and repairs of the compounds in Mosul and Kirkuk, the higher cost for fuel for generators, and the recording of expenses for cleaning and laundry, which were previously recorded under other supplies, services and equipment; ground transportation (\$195,500), as a result of the unplanned replacement of vehicles and special equipment; air operations (\$155,600); and marine operations (\$1,000).

8. Expenditure as at 30 June 2023 amounted to \$52,625,300, representing an overall utilization rate of 54.3 per cent against an appropriation of \$96,910,600. The utilization rate by category of expenditure was as follows: 85.9 per cent for military and police personnel (appropriation of \$4,939,770 and expenditure as at 30 June of \$4,245,900); 51.7 per cent for civilian personnel (appropriation of \$75,964,900 and expenditure as at 30 June of \$39,273,700); and 56.8 per cent for operational costs (appropriation of \$16,006,000 and expenditure as at 30 June of \$9,105,600).

## C. Proposed resource requirements for 2024

9. As shown in table 1, the proposed resources for UNAMI for 2024 amount to \$98,462,400, which reflects an increase of \$1,551,800, or 1.6 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The overall increase reflects increases under military and police personnel (\$160,100), civilian personnel (\$989,600) and operational costs (\$402,100) (see also [A/78/6 \(Sect.3\)/Add.6](#), table 6).

### 1. Military and police personnel

10. The proposed resources of \$5,099,800, representing an increase of \$160,100, or 3.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023, would provide for the deployment of 245 military contingent personnel (a Guard Unit from Fiji). The increase of \$160,100 under military personnel is attributable mainly to the higher cost for travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation based on the latest letter of assist from the Government of Australia for the rotation of the Guard Unit from Fiji, and the higher rate of reimbursement for standard troop costs effective 1 July 2022, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [76/276](#), offset in part by lower requirements for rations ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), para. 28 (a)).

11. With regard to the resources for rations, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed requirement of \$1,265,300 for 2024 takes into account a new planned deployment of a 25-person Guard Unit in Mosul, within the authorized strength of 245 personnel. The estimated costs of rations for Mosul have been based on the higher contractual costs of rations in Erbil. There is also an additional provision of \$40,000 for one-time mobilization costs associated with this new guard unit location.

12. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the resource requirements for military personnel of \$5,099,800 represented only the Mission's portion (66 per cent) of the total cost for military personnel. The remaining 34 per cent reflects the United Nations country team's portion of the costs and is not included in the budget proposal of UNAMI. This portion is recovered as spendable revenue and expensed under the cost-recovery mechanism.

**13. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for military personnel for 2024 for UNAMI.**

### 2. Civilian personnel

14. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2024 amount to \$76,954,500, representing a net increase of \$989,600, or 1.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The increase is attributable mainly to the application of a higher average level/step used in the computation of salaries for national staff, offset in part by lower requirements for international staff, owing primarily to the application of a higher vacancy rate of 13.3 per cent for 2024, compared with a vacancy rate of 9.0 per cent approved for 2023 ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), para. 28 (b)).

15. The proposed resources would provide for 777 staff members (127 in the Professional and higher categories, 153 Field Service, 495 national staff and 2 national United Nations Volunteers). The proposed staffing changes described in paragraphs 33 to 47 of the report of the Secretary-General include the proposed establishment of 2 positions, the abolishment of 1 position, the redeployment of 15 positions and the reassignment of 9 positions. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a table summarizing these changes (see table 2).

Table 2  
Staffing requirements

	Number	Level
Approved for 2023	776	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 16 P-5, 45 P-4, 51 P-3, 5 P-2, 152 FS, 122 NPO, 373 LL, 2 national UNV
Proposal for 2024	777	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 16 P-5, 45 P-4, 51 P-3, 5 P-2, 153 FS, 123 NPO, 372 LL, 2 national UNV
Establishment	2	1 Senior Nurse (FS) and 1 Assistant Data Analyst (NPO)
Abolishment	(1)	1 Administrative Assistant (LL)
Redeployment	–	1 Field Security Assistant (LL) from Erbil to Baghdad 1 Senior Information Analyst, Political Affairs (P-5), from Baghdad to Basrah 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Basrah to Baghdad 1 Coordination Officer (NPO) from Baghdad to Erbil 2 Associate Coordination Officers (NPO) to Baghdad, 1 from Wasit and 1 from Najaf 1 Assistant Coordination Officer (NPO) from Muthanna to Basrah 1 Associate Coordination Officer (NPO) from Qadisiyah to Anbar 1 Associate Coordination Officer (NPO) from Kirkuk to Dahuk 1 Contracts Management Officer (FS) from the Acquisition Planning and Requisition Unit to the Contracts Management Unit 1 Telecommunication Officer (FS) from Erbil to Baghdad 1 Engineer (P-3) from Erbil to Baghdad 1 Vehicle Technician (LL) from Kuwait to Baghdad 2 Transport Assistants (LL) to Baghdad, 1 from Kuwait and 1 from Erbil
Reassignment	–	1 Close Protection Officer (FS) to Administrative Assistant (FS) 1 Associate Field Translator (NPO) to Liaison Officer (NPO) 1 Associate Coordination Officer (P-2) to Associate Information Management Officer (P-2) 2 Assistant Coordination Officers (NPO) to Assistant Development Coordination Officers (NPO) 1 Assistant Coordination Officer (NPO) to Assistant Public Information Officer (NPO) 1 Assistant Administrative Officer (NPO) to Associate Contract Management Officer (NPO) 1 Budget Assistant (LL) in Kuwait to Senior Administrative Assistant (LL) 1 Claims Assistant (FS) to Data Analyst (FS)

*Abbreviations:* ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; UNV, United Nations Volunteer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

#### *Establishment*

16. It is proposed that one position of Senior Nurse (Field Service) be established in Baghdad to strengthen the medical capacity of the current medical team in response to the increasing number of medical complications and incidences of non-communicable diseases, taking into account the operational environment and the limited availability of advanced medical care (levels III and IV). The incumbent would contribute to enhancing services, medical-administrative support (day-to-day clinical work and other administrative support) and consultations with staff ([A/78/6 \(Sect.3\)/Add.6](#), para. 46 (d)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the incumbent would be expected to possess a postgraduate education in public

health, experience in United Nations staff health and psychological well-being management, knowledge of international health systems and global health foundations (including dealing with international medical institutions and reporting formats and understanding preventive/therapeutic protocols and evidence-based practices) and a sound command of the English language. The Advisory Committee notes that the Medical Unit includes three Senior Nurses (Field Service) and three Nurses (Local level) and that staff in the Field Service category are not usually required to possess a postgraduate education. **The Advisory Committee considers that the Mission should be able to identify suitable local candidates for a Senior Nurse position. The Committee recommends that the position of Senior Nurse be established as a National Professional Officer instead of as a staff member in the Field Service category.**

17. It is proposed that one position of Assistant Data Analyst (National Professional Officer) be established in Erbil to build national capacities in data analytics and management. The focus of the position would be the generation and communication of data-driven facts and analyses as well as insights and recommendations in support of the decision-making process mission-wide, with a view to achieving greater efficiency in the management of the Mission's property assets, in particular in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (*ibid.*, para. 46 (b)). The Advisory Committee notes that, in addition to the proposed establishment of an Assistant Data Analyst (National Professional Officer), the current budget proposal also includes the proposed reassignment of one Claims Assistant (Field Service) as a Data Analyst (Field Service) in the Property Management Section (see para. 22 below). The budget proposal further includes the reassignment of one Associate Coordination Officer (P-2) as an Associate Information Management Officer (P-2) in the Development Support Office to prioritize the digitalization process, practices and protocols regarding information management, and provide support to the Secretary-General's initiative on digital strategies (*ibid.*, para. 40 (a)). **In view of the above, the Advisory Committee is not convinced of the need for the establishment of a position of Assistant Data Analyst (National Professional Officer) in Erbil and recommends against the proposed position (see also para. 22 below).** The Advisory Committee further discusses the implementation of the data strategy and related human resources proposals in chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/7](#)).

#### *Abolishment*

18. It is proposed that one position of Administrative Assistant (Local level) in the Front Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General be abolished, given that the position has been vacant for over two years and the functions have been effectively covered by other positions within the Front Office ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), para. 33 (a)).

#### *Redeployment and reassignment*

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that these proposed changes included the reassignment of four positions and the redeployment of six positions proposed for the Development Support Office. According to the information provided to the Committee, these changes were aligned with the transition from a humanitarian focus towards a development-oriented focus, reflecting efforts aimed at increasing national ownership of durable solutions, responding to the adverse impacts of climate change and bolstering integrated efforts with the United Nations country team. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further information on the reprioritization of activities and its corresponding impact on the staffing**

**composition of the Mission will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of consideration of the present report (see para. 42 below).**

20. It is also proposed that the position of Close Protection Officer (Field Service) be reassigned as Administrative Assistant (Field Service) in Baghdad in order to strengthen the administrative capacity support of the Security Section. The incumbent would support the implementation and streamlining of internal administrative processes by implementing known best practices in the system, which would include a review of the Section's time management, documentation and approval processes and a review of its logistical and budgetary resource monitoring processes, contributing to the timely and more efficient addressing of administrative matters (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 33 (c) (i)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI had a complement of 45 Close Protection Officer positions of which 40 were located in Baghdad. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced of the need for an Administrative Assistant (Field Service) in the Security Section. The Committee considers that an updated security risk assessment is needed before deciding on the proposed reassignment and therefore recommends against the proposed reassignment of a Close Protection Officer (Field Service) as an Administrative Assistant (Field Service). The Advisory Committee trusts that information on an updated risk assessment for UNAMI will be included in the next budget submission.**

21. It is proposed that one position of Assistant Coordination Officer (National Professional Officer) be reassigned as an Assistant Public Information Officer (National Professional Officer) in Baghdad to support the Development Support Office in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in developing and implementing social media guidelines on the management of social media platforms and designing electronic messages in Arabic regarding durable solutions and sustainable development. The incumbent would work in close collaboration with the Mission's Strategic Communications and Public Information Office and with the United Nations country team communications group to ensure a coordinated media approach on durable solutions, water management and climate change, while at the same time building national capacities with regard to communications on durable solutions, climate change and sustainable development (ibid., para. 40 (c)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while the Mission does possess a Strategic Communications and Public Information Office, it lacks dedicated specialized capacities in communication and social media regarding durable solutions, sustainable development, returnees and the adverse impact of climate change on peace and security – domains which require specialized language competencies. **The Advisory Committee considers that the Strategic Communications and Public Information Office of the Mission, which has a staffing complement of 19 positions, should possess the required capacity, including in terms of language. The Committee is of the view that enhanced coordination between the Development Support Office and the Strategic Communications and Public Information Office would respond to the need for better media communication on development-related issues. In this context, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed reassignment of an Assistant Coordination Officer (National Professional Officer) as an Assistant Public Information Officer (National Professional Officer).**

22. It is proposed that one position of Claims Assistant (Field Service) be reassigned as a Data Analyst (Field Service) in the Property Management Section to promote workforce capabilities in data analytics and management (ibid., para. 46 (a)). **The Advisory Committee reiterates the importance of building national capacity, especially in view of the transition of the Mission. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed reassignment and instead recommends that**

**the position of Claims Assistant (Field Service) be reassigned as a Data Analyst (National Professional Officer) (see also para 17 above).**

#### *Vacant positions*

23. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at 30 June 2023, there were 81 vacant positions (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 8 P-4, 10 P-3, 1 P-2, 11 National Professional Officer, 19 Field Service and 29 Local level). The information provided to the Committee indicated that as at 13 June 2023, nine positions had been vacant for more than two years (1 Field Service, 3 National Professional Officer, 5 Local level). **The Advisory Committee trusts that efforts will be made to fill the vacant positions, including long-vacant positions, expeditiously and that updated information on vacant positions will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.** The Advisory Committee further discusses positions vacant for 24 months or longer in chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/7).

#### *Vacancy rates*

24. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on the approved positions and vacancy rates for 2022, the actual vacancy rates as at 30 June 2022 and the average rates for the period from January to June 2023, as well as the proposed positions and budgeted vacancy rates for 2024 for UNAMI (see table 3).

Table 3  
**Number of positions and vacancy rates, 2022–2024**

	2022				2023					2024		
	Approved positions	Approved vacancy rate (percentage)	Average vacancy rate (percentage)	Actual vacancy rate as at 31 December (percentage)	Proposed positions	Approved positions	Encumbered as at 30 June	Approved vacancy rate (percentage)	Average vacancy rate, January–June (percentage)	Actual vacancy rate as at 30 June (percentage)	Proposed positions	Budgeted vacancy rate (percentage)
International staff	293	14.0	13.3	15.7	278	279	237	8.0	14.0	14.7	280	13.3
National Professional Officer	118	9.0	12.7	8.5	122	122	11	9.0	10.0	9.0	123	9.8
National staff (Local level)	391	4.0	11.3	11.5	371	373	244	7.0	8.0	7.8	272	8.3
United Nations Volunteer	2	–	–	–	2	2	2	–	–	–	2	–

25. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 16, 17 and 20 to 22 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for 2024 for UNAMI.**

### **3. Operational costs**

26. The proposed requirements for operational costs for 2024 amount to \$16,408,100, reflecting an increase of \$402,100, or 2.5 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2023. The proposed increase mainly reflects higher requirements under: (a) air operations and ground transport, owing to higher average prices for fuel; (b) communications and information technology, owing to the planned replacement of communications and information technology equipment that is past life expectancy, as well as the acquisition of electronic countermeasure equipment deployed in United



Nations vehicles to ensure the safety of convoys; and (c) other supplies, services and equipment due to higher requirements for freight based on planned acquisitions (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 28 (c)). The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the operational costs for UNAMI, including the appropriation and expenditure for 2022 and the appropriation for 2023 and expenditure up to 30 June 2023, as well as the proposed requirements for 2024, as shown in table 4.

Table 4

**Operational costs**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2022		2023		2024	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure January–June	Total requirements	2024 vs. 2023 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
<b>Operational costs</b>						
Experts	–	–	–	–	–	–
Consultants and consulting services	136.8	240.6	287.5	96.0	283.7	(3.8)
Official travel	773.0	714.5	1 079.0	467.1	1 014.6	(64.4)
Facilities and infrastructure	3 488.2	4 232.4	6 420.6	2 766.0	5 704.9	(715.7)
Ground transportation	535.5	731.0	1 056.5	476.1	1 196.1	139.6
Air operations	3 226.1	3 381.7	3 150.5	2 887.6	3 850.1	699.6
Communications and information technology	2 692.4	2 524.4	2 707.0	1 763.3	2 927.5	220.5
Medical	324.5	153.9	334.9	139.3	345.2	10.3
Other supplies, services and equipment	2 022.9	727.1	970.0	510.0	1 086.0	116.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 199.4</b>	<b>12 706.5</b>	<b>16 006.0</b>	<b>9 105.6</b>	<b>16 408.1</b>	<b>402.1</b>

*Facilities and infrastructure*

27. The proposed resources under facilities and infrastructure amount to \$5,704,900, representing a decrease of \$715,700 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The Secretary-General indicates that the decrease is primarily due to lower requirements for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance owing to the non-requirement for a provision for the renovation of the UNAMI building in Kuwait, as it was assessed that the major costs relating to that project could be adequately covered by the resources of \$1.6 million approved in the 2023 budget (see A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 67, and paras. 30 and 31 below). The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed amount for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance of \$1,248,000 for 2024 represents a reduction of only \$986,200 compared with the appropriation for 2023, despite the non-recurrence of costs for the renovation of the building in Kuwait in the amount of \$1.6 million. The Committee also notes that the actual expenditure for 2022 amounted to only \$291,100 and that expenditures as at 30 June 2023 amounted to \$150,400. **In this context, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$124,800) to the proposed resources for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance.**

*Ground transportation*

28. The proposed resources for ground transportation amount to \$1,196,100, representing an increase of \$139,600 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The increase is attributable to: (a) the higher anticipated consumption of 250,600 litres of

diesel fuel at a higher average cost of \$1.086 per litre compared with 113,000 litres at an average cost per litre of \$0.545 provided for in the 2023 approved budget; and (b) the acquisition of vehicle workshop equipment to support the maintenance work carried out at the transport workshops, offset in part by lower requirements for the replacement of ageing vehicles and spare parts (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 69). The information provided to the Advisory Committee showed that in 2022, the expenditure of \$731,000 reflected an overexpenditure of \$195,500, due notably to the unplanned replacement of two vehicles and special equipment lifts. For 2023, the appropriation of \$1,056,500 represented an increase of \$521,000 compared with the appropriation for 2022, which was due mainly to the replacement of two medium armoured buses (A/77/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 69). The Committee notes that the resource requirements for ground transportation have increased from an appropriation of \$535,500 in 2022 to a proposal of \$1,196,100 in 2024, owing mainly to the acquisition of new vehicles or equipment and the increased amounts required for petrol oil and lubricants due to both the increased consumption and the increased price of fuel. **The Advisory Committee considers that, in view of recent investments in the replacement of ageing vehicles, further acquisition of vehicles should be phased out. The Committee also considers that the proposed increase in fuel consumption is not fully justified and recommends a reduction of 50 per cent (\$69,800) to the proposed increase under ground transportation.** The Committee further discusses fuel prices in its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/78/7/Add.1).

#### *Air operations*

29. The proposed resources for air operations amount to \$3,850,100, which represents an increase of \$699,600 compared with the appropriation for 2023. The resources would provide for the Mission's air transport fleet, which comprises two fixed-wing aircraft, operating for an estimated 925 flight hours. The increase is attributable to: (a) the higher average cost price of jet fuel of \$2.270 per litre, compared with the average price of \$1.00 per litre applied in the 2023 budget; and (b) higher costs for the rental and operation of fixed-wing aircraft owing to a reduction in the cost-shared contribution from the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen from 25 to 20 per cent for one of the aircraft (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, paras. 70 and 71). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that during recent years, while the number of budgeted flight hours was 975 hours per year, the number of actual flight hours were lower: 417.9 hours in 2020, 553.8 hours in 2021, 743.5 hours in 2022, and 401.2 hours as at 30 June 2023. **In view of the pattern of the reduced number of actual flight hours compared with the budgeted number and the reduced number of proposed flight hours for 2024 compared with 2023, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 3 per cent (\$115,500) to the proposed resources for air operations.** The Advisory Committee further discusses fuel prices in its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/78/7/Add.1).

#### *Redeployment between budget lines and expenditure*

30. The information provided to the Advisory Committee indicated that, in 2022, the overexpenditure of \$103,800 under consultants was due to the recording of expenditures related to individual contractors for warehouse support (budgeted under other supplies, services and equipment) being erroneously recorded under consultants. Similarly, the overexpenditure of \$744,200 under facilities and infrastructure was due in part to the recording of expenses for cleaning and laundry services, which were previously budgeted under other supplies, services and equipment. With regard to utilities and waste disposal services, the Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the actual lower expenditure in 2022 was primarily due to: (a) expenditures totalling

\$147,000 being inadvertently charged against the cost-recovery fund; and (b) the non-recording of expenditures totalling \$70,000 for utilities services in 2022 owing to a delay in the receipt of billings. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further efforts will be made to ensure accurate budgeting and recording.**

31. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 27 to 29 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs for 2024 for UNAMI.**

## D. Other matters

### *Rehabilitation of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq building in Kuwait*

32. The Secretary-General recalls that, in the 2023 budget, the General Assembly approved resources of \$1,674,200 for the planned renovation of the UNAMI building in Kuwait. Based on the most recent assessments, it was determined that in lieu of renovating the existing dilapidated compound, for which renovation costs were estimated at \$2.9 million (reflecting 2023 costing estimates) with an estimated time frame of 19 months, a more cost-effective option could be to construct a new fit-for-purpose building on the compound. It is expected that the estimated construction costs of the new building will not exceed the resources already approved in the 2023 budget, giving rise to potential savings of \$1.2 million compared with the originally estimated renovation costs of the existing building. The construction timeline for the new building is expected to take 12 months ([A/78/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), paras. 86–89).

33. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the building currently occupied was the main office building in the Kheitan compound, which hosts all the staff of the Kuwait Joint Support Office, UNAMI, UNAMA, a regional conduct and discipline unit and a regional auditing unit of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The building was provided by the Government of Kuwait at no cost. The new building, once completed, will continue to provide consolidated office space for the entities mentioned above. There are no plans to have other United Nations presences in the compound, as all other United Nations presences are currently hosted in a separate compound. The Mission has engaged with the Government of Kuwait to obtain approvals to begin the project, with the most recent meeting held in June 2023. In parallel, the Mission has started to develop the statement of works in preparation for the procurement process. The start date of the project is pending approval by the Government of Kuwait. The savings in operating costs are expected to be realized upon occupation of the new building. Consequently, the anticipated savings have not yet been factored into the 2024 budget. **The Advisory Committee trusts that information on the status of the construction of the new building, as well as efficiencies related to the maintenance of the new premises, will be provided in the next budget report.**

### *Equitable geographical representation*

34. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the geographical distribution by regional group of the international staff of the Mission, based on incumbency data as at 30 June 2023. Of a total of 238 international staff, 84 were from Asia-Pacific States, 57 were from Western European and other States, 49 were from African States, 31 were from Eastern European States, 11 were from Latin American and Caribbean States and 6 were from other States. **The Advisory Committee trusts that an update on the efforts of UNAMI to improve its geographical balance will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the context of the next budget submission.** The Advisory Committee further discusses equitable geographical

representation in chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/7) and in its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/78/7/Add.1).

#### *Gender balance*

35. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the gender balance ratio at UNAMI stood at 21 per cent female and 79 per cent male for all staff. While the balance among positions at the Professional and higher categories had increased to 31 per cent female and 69 per cent male, imbalances remained more profound in the support and security categories. Recruitment statistics for the past two years indicated that of 135 recruitments, 43 selections were female candidates, reflecting a 31 per cent ratio – a marginal, yet improved, step forward. **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNAMI will intensify its efforts to achieve gender balance among its staff and provide an update in future programme budget submissions (see also A/77/7/Add.6, para. 31, A/76/7/Add.6, para. 31, and A/75/7/Add.7, para. 16).** The Advisory Committee further discusses gender balance in chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/7) and in its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/78/7/Add.1).

#### *Staff Counselling Unit*

36. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in 2022, the Mission conducted an analysis that showed that replacing the former Staff Counsellor (P-3) position with consulting services was not only cost-effective but also strengthened the support provided by the Staff Counselling Unit. This has been proven by the experience to date. For 2024, the provision for outsourcing counselling services is \$74,400, which, compared with the net salary costs for the former P-3 position of \$185,500, reflects an annual savings of \$111,100. The Mission recently shared with the relevant headquarters entity information on its first year of experience with outsourcing the staff counselling services. Currently, no other special political missions or peacekeeping operations have indicated that they are considering this approach.

#### *Cost recovery*

37. The Secretary-General indicates that in 2024, resources in the amount of \$10,485,700 are projected to be received from UNITAD and the United Nations country team and will continue to be utilized to provide for the continuation of six positions (2 Field Service and 4 international United Nations Volunteers) and to continue to support the United Nations Guard Unit, the cost-sharing of other security staff costs and services, space management, cleaning services, field technology services, ground transport, medical services, fuel and other supplies (A/78/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 82). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on amounts recovered and expended for the years 2020 to 2022, as reflected in table 5.

Table 5  
**Cost recoveries, 2020–2022**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	Year		
	2020	2021	2022
Revenues	11 300	12 200	11 800
Expenditure	(8 300)	(10 500)	(15 200)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>1 700</b>	<b>(3 400)</b>

38. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will systematically include in future budget proposals disaggregated information on cost recovery, specifying the services provided to different entities and the respective amounts recovered (see also [A/77/7/Add.6](#), para. 30, and [A/76/7/Add.6](#), para. 29).** The Advisory Committee further discusses cost recovery in chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/7](#)).

*Cooperation with the United Nations resident coordinator system*

39. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the UNAMI leadership team included a Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, who leads the Mission's Development Support Office and is responsible for coordinating efforts related to humanitarian assistance and sustainable development with the Government of Iraq, international donors and with the United Nations country team. The Committee was also informed upon enquiry that the existence of the "triple-hatted" Deputy Special Representative position had increased collaboration and coordination efforts. Coordination with the Resident Coordinator Office and the United Nations country team also happens through the five priority working groups (in which UNAMI also participates) that oversee the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Iraq.

*Transition and independent strategy review*

40. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, building on the Secretary-General's planning directive for the development of consistent and coherent United Nations transition processes of 2019 and the Mission's integrated transition calendar, UNAMI had developed a transition strategy to guide its planning for making the best use of comparative advantages among United Nations entities should the Security Council mandate a mission drawdown, exit or a reconfigured presence. The Committee was also informed that at the end of 2021, the Government of Iraq issued a national plan on internal displacement and launched the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Iraq. Since then, the humanitarian community in Iraq has focused on joint efforts to transition and scale down collective international humanitarian responses in Iraq. The focus is shifting towards durable solutions, sustainable development and addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as building national ownership of residual humanitarian requirements. The Mission, in close coordination with the United Nations country team, is supporting the Government in establishing and making effective use of governorate-level and national coordination mechanisms, and in moving the responsibility of identifying durable solutions and coordination increasingly to national counterparts.

41. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, in a letter dated 18 May 2023 addressed to the Secretary-General ([S/2023/359](#), annex), requested the renewal of the Mission's mandate until 31 May 2024 and expressed the Government's desire for an independent evaluation of the Mission's work, activity and future, which could lead to a reduction in its mandate within the areas desired by the Government of Iraq. On 30 May 2023, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution [2682 \(2023\)](#) extending the mandate of UNAMI until 31 May 2024. Paragraph 3 of the resolution requested that the Secretary-General, in line with best practices, conduct and provide to the Security Council, no later than 31 March 2024, an independent strategic review of UNAMI that assessed current threats to the peace and security of Iraq and the continued relevance of the Mission's tasks and priorities, and provided recommendations to optimize its mandate, mission structure and staffing to support

the Government of Iraq in addressing the challenges of peace and security. The Council also asked the Secretary-General to further assess the options to support the Government of Iraq in strengthening effective regional cooperation on issues outlined in paragraph 2 (b) (iv) of the resolution. The Committee was also informed that the Secretariat had started preparations, in consultation with UNAMI, to establish an independent expert team to conduct the independent strategic review as requested in resolution [2682 \(2023\)](#). As at 30 June 2023, the experts to conduct the independent strategic review had not yet been identified.

**42. The Advisory Committee notes that the Mission, in cooperation with the United Nations country team, is supporting the host country to transition from an approach focused on humanitarian activities towards one focused on development activities and trusts that updated information will be included in the next report. The Committee also trusts that the proposed budget for UNAMI for 2025 will reflect the results of the independent strategic review and any impact on the transition strategy, as well as implications for the Kuwait Joint Support Office.** The Committee discusses the Kuwait Joint Support Office further in the context of the review of the global support architecture and makes further observations on the independent strategy review in chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2024 ([A/78/7](#)) and on transitions in its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/78/7/Add.1](#)).

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