



# General Assembly

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## Fifth Committee

### Summary record of the 30th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 March 2011, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Soomro (Vice-Chair). . . . . (Pakistan)  
*Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Torres Lépori

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

*Expression of sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan*

1. **The Chair**, on behalf of all the members of the Committee, expressed sympathy to the Government and people of Japan in connection with the earthquake and tsunami that had struck their country on 11 March 2011.

2. *At the invitation of the Chair, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in honour of the victims of the earthquake and tsunami.*

3. **Mr. Murazawa** (Japan) thanked the Chair for the expression of sympathy.

**Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011** *(continued)*

*Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued) (A/65/328/Add.6 and Corr.1 and A/65/602/Add.1)*

4. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/65/328/Add.6 and Corr.1), said that the report contained the proposed resource requirements for the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2011 and the United Nations representative to the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB) for the period 1 January to 30 June 2011.

5. BNUB had been established by the Security Council in its resolution 1959 (2010) as a follow-on mission to the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), effective 1 January 2011. On the basis of lessons learned from other transitions, it had been decided to combine the liquidation of BINUB with the establishment of BNUB. The period in which both missions would be operational was therefore referred to as the transition period.

6. The proposed resource requirements for BNUB in 2011, including the requirements for the transition period, amounted to \$23,103,200, or \$25,075,600 including staff assessment. That amount would provide

for the Mission's personnel, the number of which would be reduced gradually from 450 to 134 by December 2011, and its operational requirements. The resource requirements from 1 January 2011 would be met in part through the use of the amount of \$14,641,200 that had already been approved for BINUB, the predecessor mission.

7. The General Assembly was requested to appropriate, after taking into consideration the amount that had already been approved for BINUB, a net amount of \$9,183,400, including staff assessment, for BNUB.

8. With regard to the United Nations representative to IAMB, she said that, when the General Assembly had considered the funding proposals for special political missions in 2011 at the main part of its sixty-fifth session, it had not been expected that the Security Council would extend the mandate of IAMB. However, by its resolution 1956 (2010), the Council had extended the Board's mandate until 30 June 2011. The proposed resource requirements were estimated at \$24,600 and would provide for official travel of the representative and his adviser to the meetings of the Board. The requirements would be accommodated within the total appropriation for special political missions for the biennium 2010-2011.

9. The General Assembly was requested to approve the proposed budget for BNUB and appropriate an additional \$9,183,400, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

10. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's related report (A/65/632), said that, although the Advisory Committee had no objection to the decision to combine the liquidation of BINUB with the establishment of BNUB or the transition process itself, it recalled that the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support had begun to develop standard operating procedures related, among other things, to the transition from one type of a mission to another and mission liquidation. The Advisory Committee underlined the importance of expediting the completion of that exercise and of ensuring the incorporation of lessons learned. Proper planning and procedure should seek to avoid lengthy transitions, while ensuring effective and efficient implementation.

11. The Advisory Committee regretted that the proposed budget for BNUB, a new special political mission, did not include detailed information on staffing requirements. Such information would have allowed for a thorough analysis of its structure and staffing proposals. The Advisory Committee had subsequently requested and received the required information. It recommended that the information it had been given should also be provided to the General Assembly and stressed that all future budget submissions should include such information.

12. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should accept the Secretary-General's staffing proposals, with the exception of the 12 posts identified in paragraph 21 of its report. The staffing needs for BNUB should be resubmitted and rejustified in the context of the next budget submission. It was also recommending a reduction of \$957,400 in the resources proposed by the Secretary-General for BNUB for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011, which related to recommendations on the staffing proposal and a minor adjustment to the requirements for ground transportation. Taking into account the resources already appropriated in General Assembly resolution 65/260, the net additional requirements for BNUB would amount to \$7.5 million.

13. Lastly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the requirements of the United Nations representative to IAMB.

14. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group supported the Secretary-General's proposals as set out in paragraph 45 of his report and, in that connection, believed that it was important to reach an agreement on the proposals as soon as possible in informal consultations.

*The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.*