



General Assembly

Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
5 July 2017

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 34th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 May 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Nikodijevic (Vice-Chair) (Serbia)
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

Contents

Agenda item 136: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations
(*continued*)

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the
United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Support account for peacekeeping operations

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated
Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated
Stabilization Mission in Mali

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

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/>).

17-07629 (E)



Please recycle A small graphic of a recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



In the absence of Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Ms. Nikodijevic (Serbia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 136: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (*continued*) ([A/71/440/Add.1](#))

1. **Mr. Takasu** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) said that since 30 April 2017 a total of \$108 million had been received for the regular budget from 10 Member States; for peacekeeping operations, \$54 million had been received from 14 Member States; and for the international tribunals, \$8 million had been received from 7 Member States. Accordingly, under the regular budget 96 Member States had paid in full; all peacekeeping assessments had been paid by 51 Member States; and for the international tribunals, 69 Member States had paid in full. Payments received after 3 May 2017 meant that 41 Member States had paid their assessments in full for all categories.

2. **Ms. Pereira Sotomayor** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee's consideration of the financial health of the Organization were an opportunity for Member States to reaffirm their commitment to bearing the expenses of the Organization. The Group reiterated its support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in accordance with paragraph 74 of General Assembly resolution [70/1](#). The financial indicators for the Organization were generally sound, but certain areas would need to be closely monitored for the rest of 2017. Unpaid assessments for the regular budget and the tribunals had been lower at the end of 2016 than a year earlier, but unpaid assessments for peacekeeping operations had increased.

3. The Group expressed its appreciation to those Member States that had reduced their outstanding contributions, efforts that must continue, especially given the major undertakings in hand. The collective efforts of many Member States had reduced the amount of unpaid assessments compared to a year earlier, but the financial health of the Organization in 2017 depended on action by all Member States. The Group recognized that the national financial cycles of some Member States were not aligned with that of the United Nations. The Group welcomed the reduction in outstanding payments to Member States in respect of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment. As many troop contributors were developing countries, they could not sustain their troop commitments and maintain their equipment on their own for extended

periods of time. Improved timelines for reimbursement were needed.

4. The Group reaffirmed Member States' legal obligations under the Charter, and recognized the need for financial stability so that the Organization could function effectively and implement mandates. While acknowledging the need to extend sympathetic understanding to those temporarily unable to meet their financial obligations as a consequence of economic difficulties, the Group urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Support for the Organization must be expressed not only in words but in deeds. The Group was concerned about efforts by some States to artificially justify the non-payment of their assessed contributions, which not only affected mandate fulfilment but also undermined the governance of the United Nations on the basis of the sovereign equality of Member States.

5. **Ms. Grant** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the Member States and the Organization shared responsibility for the financial health of the United Nations, which was essential to mandate fulfilment. Her delegation gave high priority to sound financial management. As at 30 April 2017, unpaid assessments had been lower in all categories than a year earlier but continued to adversely affect the financial health of the Organization. Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. A small number of States were responsible for a large proportion of unpaid regular budget assessments and should address the matter as a priority. Since the Secretariat predicted that regular budget cash would tighten towards the end of 2017, the full and timely payment of assessed contributions was essential. The Group welcomed the decrease in the level of outstanding payments to troop- and equipment-contributing countries since the previous year, and urged more progress in that area. Financial health depended not only on reliable income but also on the standards applied in expenditure. The United Nations must spend more wisely, with greater accountability and within agreed budget levels. The Organization must not only receive the necessary resources to do its work but also make savings, reprioritize activities and deliver results.

6. **Mr. Vachon** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the three

delegations welcomed the Secretariat's assessment that the financial situation of the Organization was sound, as well as the increase in the number of Member States that had paid their assessed contributions in a timely manner in all categories, but were concerned about the increasing dependence on the budgetary reserves and the severe problems projected later in 2017 if the outstanding contributions were not paid in a timely manner; they urged Member States to pay their contributions without delay.

7. The three delegations were concerned about the \$1.7 billion in unpaid peacekeeping assessments, the burden of which was borne by troop-, police- and equipment-contributing countries. Timely payments for troops, formed police units, and contingent-owned equipment, as well as in respect of letters of assist and death and disability claims, depended on Member States' meeting their financial obligations to the United Nations in full and on time. The three delegations commended the Secretariat for its efforts to ensure swift payment despite the difficulties caused by late-paying Member States. Unpaid assessed contributions had a significant adverse impact on the Organization, which had gone to great lengths in December 2016 to address inadequate regular budget funds. The levels of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account, on which the Organization increasingly relied, should be reviewed.

8. The three delegations would continue to demonstrate their commitment to the United Nations by paying their assessments in full, on time and without conditions. They urged all Member States to do the same and welcomed the fact that more Member States had done so in 2017 than the previous year. The Organization had a mechanism in place to assist Member States in addressing their fiscal arrears; the Member States concerned should make use of that mechanism and submit multi-year payment plans. While it was important to provide the Organization with the resources it needed, it was just as important to identify potential savings, refine processes and make better use of resources. Improved transparency, managing for results and clear reporting of expenditure would encourage Member States to respect their obligations.

9. **Mr. Fu Liheng** (China) said that his delegation welcomed the generally positive financial situation but was concerned by the level of unpaid assessments for the regular budget and peacekeeping, which had been \$3.07 billion as at 30 April 2017, and by the amount of \$780 million owed to troop- and police-contributing countries at that date. Finance was important to the governance of the United Nations, and a sound

financial position was essential to the Organization's functioning. He called on Member States to meet their obligations by paying their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, so that the Organization could perform its mandates.

10. Countries possessing the requisite resources, in particular those with high assessments, should pay their outstanding assessments without delay. His delegation was sympathetic to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, that faced economic and fiscal difficulties; it supported the continued application of Article 19 of the Charter to accommodate their situation. As a resolute supporter of the United Nations, China had paid its assessments in full and on time. The Secretariat must improve budget management, strictly comply with the financial rules and regulations, strengthen monitoring and accountability and improve the efficiency of resource utilization so that every penny paid by the taxpayers of Member States was put to good use.

11. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that the scope and complexity of United Nations programmes and operations had increased in recent years. The Organization now managed more peacekeeping missions and personnel, and had more displaced persons depending on it, than ever before. The goal of improving standards of living and upholding rights for everyone was more ambitious than ever, but recent agreements on sustainable development and climate change, in particular the 2030 Agenda, were encouraging. For the Organization to fulfil its mandates, Member States must follow up on their political commitment by paying their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions.

12. It was cause for concern that the largest share of unpaid assessments continued to be owed by a single Member State, one that also benefited from the greatest distortion in the methodology for calculating the scale of assessments and the presence of the Headquarters of the Organization in its territory. The accumulation of unpaid assessments hindered mandate delivery and resulted in significant financial limitations; the Secretariat must minimize the impact of that pressure by managing resources efficiently. The priority must be the mandates approved by Member States rather than administrative initiatives, which must be fully justified before they were undertaken.

13. Cuba had repeatedly denounced the unilateral coercive measures, contrary to international law, that blocked payments from various developing countries and violated the agreements between the Organization and the host country. Despite the cooperation of

Secretariat staff, Cuba faced challenges in paying its assessments because of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed for over 50 years by the United States of America, which violated international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of free trade. The embargo, the most unjust, severe and prolonged system of sanctions imposed against any country, hindered Cuba in honouring its financial commitments to international bodies. Cuba hoped that the new United States Administration would heed the almost unanimous calls of the international community to end that criminal policy. It would engage in dialogue and cooperation on the basis of absolute respect for its sovereignty. His delegation was committed to multilateralism and the strengthening of the United Nations system.

14. **Mr. Imada** (Japan) said that his Government had honoured its responsibility to pay its assessments in full and on time, thereby contributing to international peace and prosperity, despite its long-standing financial difficulties. Member States' capacity to pay, however, was not unlimited; resource requirements must be realistic as well as sufficient for mandate implementation. The Secretariat must ensure that the budget, the cost of which was borne by the taxpayers of Member States, was utilized in the most effective manner and with full accountability. To improve budgetary discipline, assessed contributions should be used only for appropriate purposes, and resource requirements proposed by the Secretariat should precisely reflect the intentions of the intergovernmental bodies. He reiterated that the Fifth Committee was the body entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters.

15. **Mr. Takasu** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) said that the financial situation was generally positive, but the prospects for the regular budget towards the end of 2017 were unclear. As requested by the representative of Cuba at the Committee's 30th meeting, the Secretariat had circulated supplementary information regarding the regular budget cash flow for the previous three bienniums. The trend was for tight cash flow in the last quarter, and the shortfall had increased every year since 2012. He reiterated his call for the level of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account to be reviewed to meet cash flow requirements. The table in the supplementary information showed the month-end figures, but the cash situation was often more serious at other points during the month.

16. The Secretariat attached high priority to expediting the reimbursement of the costs of troops and contingent-owned equipment. Resource

requirements were rigorously vetted and, once they were approved by the Committee, the most efficient possible use was made of taxpayers' money. The Secretary-General had recently sent a memorandum to all staff in which he reiterated the importance of strict budgetary management. Mr. Takasu thanked Member States for their positive attitude to the payment of their contributions, which had allowed the Organization to fulfil its mandates effectively.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

17. **Mr. Lacroix** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that he was grateful to the Committee for its strong support for United Nations efforts to professionalize and modernize peacekeeping, which it had recognized as an investment in global peace, security, and prosperity and one of the most effective tools for helping war-torn countries reach political solutions, protecting civilians and saving lives. While some missions had made progress in mandate implementation, many operated in non-permissive environments and faced challenges because of lack of progress in political processes, some of which were weak or non-existent; the Secretary-General had emphasized the importance of political processes in peacekeeping. The closure of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the transformation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) into a smaller operation focused on law and order were a reminder of the role of peacekeeping in addressing long-standing conflict and building peace. The members of the Security Council had recognized the achievements of the three missions during the thematic debate of the Council on its review of peacekeeping operations in April 2017.

18. The current financial environment and uncertainty related to global security put pressure on peacekeeping. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations must find new ways of planning, sourcing, conducting and transitioning missions to make them flexible, more effective, and responsive and accountable to the people they served, while ensuring that they had the human, financial and material resources needed to implement their mandates. The Department had intensified its efforts to improve strategic and operational planning, reinforce political and operational partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, strategically manage resource requirements, and improve performance and efficiency. Building on its successes in Côte d'Ivoire,

Liberia and Haiti, it had strengthened its operations in Mali, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to protect civilians and facilitate peace and stability. It managed and reformed peacekeeping in a pragmatic, field-focused and performance-oriented way, through constant and close engagement with Member States, to build cross-regional consensus in support of a progressive vision.

19. Those efforts would fail, however, if the reputation of the United Nations was stained by the shameful acts of a few. The Secretary-General's strategy to combat sexual exploitation and abuse as a system-wide evil was an opportunity for the Secretariat and Member States to work in partnership and resolve the issue once and for all. The Secretary-General gave the matter the highest priority and had stated in no uncertain terms that he expected every United Nations leader and staff member to be personally engaged in eradicating sexual exploitation and abuse from the Organization. As the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, he would use every means at his disposal to support the Secretary-General and advance the initiatives already under way. The situation could be changed only through strong and sustained action. The ultimate goal was to safeguard those whom the Organization was responsible for protecting; harm done by individuals serving under the United Nations flag would not be tolerated.

20. Under the Secretary-General's leadership and with the support of the Member States, the Organization must continue to improve peacekeeping, which had transformed the lives of countless people in the previous six decades. All those involved in peacekeeping, which was a unique partnership among Member States, the Secretariat, host countries and regional organizations, must play their part in making operations more efficient and better able to support peace.

Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Support account for peacekeeping operations
([A/71/726](#), [A/71/726/Add.1](#), [A/71/800](#), [A/71/806](#) and [A/71/883](#))

21. **Ms. Bartsiotas** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 ([A/71/726](#) and [A/71/726/Add.1](#)), said that funding from the support account was available to 14

offices and departments throughout the Secretariat that provided backstopping support for approximately 160,000 military, police and civilian personnel in 15 missions worldwide, a number expected to fall to 14 in 2017/18. In 2015/16, the Secretariat had supported the strengthening of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS); the drawdown of UNOCI; and the streamlining and consolidation of MINUSTAH and UNMIL. In November 2015, it had deployed Umoja cluster 4 and, for international staff in peacekeeping, integrated Umoja extension 1 functionalities in employee self-service, travel, payroll and payment processing. It had provided service delivery functionality in all missions. Following the deployment of cluster 4, payments to Member States in respect of contingent-owned equipment, troops and police were processed through Umoja. The annual amount of such payments, on average \$2.3 billion, or 28 per cent of all peacekeeping expenditure, was the largest processed by the United Nations. The Secretariat had expanded its investigation into reports of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping troops. The Office of Internal Oversight Services had investigated 60 such reports and interviewed 215 victims. The allowances of personnel alleged to have engaged in such abuse had been suspended.

22. Using Umoja, the Secretariat had automated the preparation of financial statements and associated notes for peacekeeping missions in compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. The first managed mobility exercise and the vacancy exercise for the Political, Peace and Humanitarian Network had been undertaken. Standing administrative measures for crisis response and mission start-up had been finalized in March 2016, including such temporary flexible arrangements as emergency delegations and cooperation with other United Nations entities. Strategic enterprise solutions, including the electronic fuel management system, had been implemented to deliver efficiencies in field operations. The expenditure for the support account had been \$335.9 million, an implementation rate of 99.8 per cent.

23. Introducing the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/71/806](#)), she said that, pursuant to the General Assembly's request that the level of the support account should be reviewed on a regular basis, the Chef de Cabinet had met with heads

of departments and offices at the start of the budget preparation process to coordinate emerging requirements under the support account and reprioritize existing resources to meet needs in the field. Through reprioritization and efficiency measures, the level of the support account had been contained at 4.17 per cent of the peacekeeping budget, excluding organizational initiative costs, a level similar to 2016/17.

24. The proposed 2017/18 budget for the support account was estimated at \$339.5 million, taking into account resources for organizational initiatives approved by the General Assembly. It reflected the realignment of activities on the basis of priority areas and the restructuring of the Office of Operations in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Logistics Support Division in the Department of Field Support. The reorganization of the Logistics Support Division was aligned with the deployment of the first phase of Umoja supply chain functionality in the field to replace the Galileo system and enhance the management of inventory and property, plant and equipment. The Secretariat had streamlined resource requirements, with a net decrease of nine posts and positions compared to 2016/17, and had reduced operational costs. Increases were mainly owing to adjustments in non-discretionary post resources and unavoidable increases in such costs as after-service health insurance.

25. Except for non-discretionary increases resulting from the computation of salaries and the peacekeeping share of contributions to organizational initiatives as approved by the General Assembly, the support account remained within the approved level of resources, as a result of the Committee's guidance and the combined efforts of the Secretariat and Member States to reprioritize activities and realize efficiency gains. For the Secretariat, the main challenge in managing the support account was the provision of backstopping support in a volatile peacekeeping environment with limited resources.

26. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/71/883), said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$11,722,400 in the proposed budget for the support account for 2017/18 under post and non-post resources. The General Assembly had reiterated that the level of the support account should take into consideration the number and size of peacekeeping operations. Given the withdrawal of military and civilian components in UNOCI and UNMIL, the requirement for backstopping

support should decrease in the 2017/18 period. A prudent approach should be taken to any increase in the support account, pending the comprehensive review of the account to be presented at the second part of the resumed seventy-second session of the Assembly.

27. Reliance on external consultants should be kept to a minimum and the Organization should use its in-house capacity to perform core activities and fulfil functions that were recurrent in the long term or related to policy matters. With regard to official travel, the Secretary-General should comply with General Assembly resolution 67/254 A, including with respect to the 16-day advance booking of tickets. The growing cost of official travel could be contained through greater use of videoconferencing and by combining trips.

28. In general, given its views on the proposed level of the support account, the Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment or conversion of posts and positions. However, it recommended approval of the conversion to a post of the position of one P-2 Associate Legal Officer in the Administrative Law Section. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of 74 continuations of general temporary assistance positions and made other recommendations under non-post expenditure by department or office. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the actions to be taken by the General Assembly for the 2015/16 and 2017/18 periods were set out in section V.

29. **The Chair** drew attention to the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the proposed budget of the Office of Internal Oversight Services under the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/800).

30. **Ms. Pereira Sotomayor** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, as a key financial contributor and the largest collective contributor of troops and police personnel to peacekeeping operations, the majority of which were currently hosted by its members, the Group believed that adequate backstopping support must be provided to enable the effective and efficient implementation of increasingly complex peacekeeping mandates. Notwithstanding the new demands placed on field and Headquarters personnel and the peacekeeping support structure as a result of the changing nature of peacekeeping operations, the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the size and complexity of operations.

31. The Secretary-General's proposal of \$312.7 million with respect to post and non-post

resources for 2017/18 was \$3 million higher than the resources approved for the 2016/17 period and included a net reduction of three posts and positions. The Group would carefully analyse the resources requested to ensure that they were relevant to the support needs of staff and of troop and police contingents on the ground, and would scrutinize the proposals for the establishment, abolishment, reclassification, reassignment, and redeployment of posts, which were intended to realign the capacity of the support account in force generation, environmental responsibility, medical support, safety of staff, human rights, democracy, governance and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

32. The implementation of the global field support strategy, Umoja and other supply chain management improvements had had no discernible impact on the level of resources requested under the support account. The rationale for the massive investment in such initiatives had been medium- to long-term efficiencies and economies of scale, which had not materialized. The requirements for Umoja, in the amount of \$25 million, were 48.8 per cent higher than the 2016/17 provision. The Group would examine the proposed restructuring of the Logistics Support Division. It remained concerned at the inadequate representation of troop- and police-contributing countries in the peacekeeping support structure in the field and at Headquarters, especially at senior levels, despite the Assembly's repeated requests to the Secretary-General to improve their representation, particularly in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. It would seek updates on measures taken to that end.

33. **Mr. Kumar** (India) said that India took pride in its long-standing contribution to peacekeeping, the flagship activity of the United Nations in peace and security. India had provided 200,000 troops in nearly 50 of the 71 peacekeeping missions mandated in the preceding six decades, including 13 current missions. In Liberia, it had deployed the first female formed police unit, recognized as a model for encouraging female participation in the police and for pursuing gender balance more generally. India was deeply conscious of the complexities of the international community's response to conflict situations, since 168 of its troops had made the supreme sacrifice. He paid tribute to peacekeepers who had made the ultimate sacrifice, including three Cambodians and one Moroccan who had died a few days earlier in the Central African Republic.

34. India welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to improve efficiency in peacekeeping, but such efforts

should be based on an unwavering commitment to the mandate of each mission, operational effectiveness on the ground and the welfare and security of peacekeepers. The troop- and police-contributing countries must be consulted at every stage. A one-sided approach to realizing economies could prove counter-productive. Peacekeepers deployed in harm's way must have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates or their effectiveness would be reduced.

35. The United Nations must lead by example in all its activities, including peacekeeping. Timely payment of assessed contributions was essential to the financial health of peacekeeping operations, but more than \$1.6 billion was owed in unpaid assessments. Assessed contributions must not be withheld for political motives. India was also concerned about the \$777 million owed by the Organization to 86 Member States for troops, formed police units and contingent-owned equipment claims as at 31 March 2017. At a time when troop- and police-contributing countries were being asked to make greater sacrifices, the existence of pending payments to so many countries did not reflect the Organization's commitment to peacekeeping.

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic ([A/71/651](#), [A/71/819](#) and [A/71/836/Add.8](#))

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali ([A/71/690](#), [A/71/842](#) and [A/71/836/Add.14](#))

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan ([A/71/653](#), [A/71/841](#) and [A/71/836/Add.15](#))

36. **Ms. Bartsiotas** (Controller), introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 ([A/71/651](#)) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/71/819](#)) for MINUSCA, said that the proposed budget for 2017/18 was \$921,580,500, an increase of 0.1 per cent compared with 2016/17. MINUSCA would pursue its strategic objective of supporting the creation of conditions conducive to the sustainable reduction of the presence of, and threat posed by, armed groups. At the national level, the Mission's integrated approach to fulfilling its mandate focused first and foremost on robust efforts to protect civilians. MINUSCA was committed to engaging armed groups in dialogue, persuading such groups to enter into a disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation process, promoting respect for human rights, addressing conflict-related sexual violence and children and armed

conflict, and pursuing the administration of justice for serious crimes through the Special Criminal Court.

37. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/71/690) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/842) for MINUSMA, she said that the proposed budget for 2017/18 was \$1,077,552,000, an increase of 15.4 per cent compared with 2016/17. The Security Council, by its resolution 2295 (2016), had agreed to increase the force levels of MINUSMA, which had been boosted by an additional 2,049 military and 480 police personnel. The implementation of the peace agreement had been affected by growing insecurity in the north of the country. Banditry and other types of crime were increasingly undermining stability and MINUSMA patrols, convoys and camps had become a target for violent extremist groups. In that context, MINUSMA would focus on ensuring inclusivity in the peace process; improving the security situation in the north by strengthening the security mechanisms of the peace agreement; building sustainable peace through early recovery activities carried out in close collaboration with the United Nations country team; and strengthening its presence in northern and central Mali, in particular by reinforcing its office in Ménaka and increasing the number of troops in Mopti.

38. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (A/71/653) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/841) for UNMISS, she said that the proposed budget for 2017/18 was \$1,178,338,600, an increase of 8.9 per cent compared with 2016/17. The Security Council, by its resolution 2304 (2016), had increased the force levels of UNMISS, including 4,000 military personnel for the Regional Protection Force. In addition, by its resolution 2327 (2016), the Council had increased the police ceiling by 100 police personnel. UNMISS would continue to protect civilians, monitor and investigate human rights, create the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and support the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan.

39. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's related report on MINUSCA (A/71/836/Add.8), said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$18,873,200 to the proposed budget for 2017/18. The Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment of a number of posts and further recommended the abolishment of 12 posts proposed for reassignment. With regard to operational costs, the Advisory Committee

recommended reducing the proposed resources for construction by 10 per cent, for consultants by 50 per cent and for official travel by 30 per cent, in addition to adjustments to the proposed resources for fuel and aerostat and unmanned aerial systems.

40. Introducing the Advisory Committee's related report on MINUSMA (A/71/836/Add.14), he said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$16,684,100 to the proposed budget for 2017/18. The Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment of 22 posts and positions and further recommended the abolishment of 3 posts proposed for reassignment. With regard to operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommended reducing the proposed resources for travel outside the mission area by 20 per cent and for facilities and infrastructure by 50 per cent, in addition to adjustments to the proposed resources for unmanned aerial systems, public information services, printing and reproduction.

41. Introducing the Advisory Committee's related report on UNMISS (A/71/836/Add.15), he said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$19,258,600 to the proposed budget for 2017/18. The Advisory Committee recommended the abolishment of 8 posts proposed for reassignment and the approval of 72 proposed reassignments and redeployments, with the application of a vacancy factor of 50 per cent. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended the abolishment of 13 posts that had been vacant for two years or more and the discontinuation of 3 general temporary assistance positions in the Special Advisers Section. The Advisory Committee recommended that proposed resources for national staff should be maintained at the highest level of actual expenditure incurred in recent years and be reduced by an overall amount of \$8 million. With regard to operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommended reducing the proposed resources for facilities and infrastructure by \$5 million, for unmanned aerial systems by \$1 million, for non-training consultants by \$124,100, for official travel by 20 per cent and for communications by 5 per cent.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.