



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 149

### Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

## **Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda**

### **Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Appropriation for 2016/17	\$39,203,600
Expenditure for 2016/17	\$36,332,600
Unencumbered balance for 2016/17	\$2,871,000
Appropriation for 2017/18	\$33,000,000
Projected expenditure for 2017/18 <sup>a</sup>	\$32,995,500
Projected underexpenditure for 2017/18 <sup>a</sup>	\$4,500
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2018/19	\$35,194,800
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	(\$2,255,900)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	\$32,938,900

<sup>a</sup> Estimates as at 28 February 2018.



## I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 18 April 2018. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Advisory Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, can be found in its related report ([A/72/789](#)). The main observations and recommendations of the Board pertaining specifically to the Regional Service Centre are discussed below.

## II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

2. In its resolution [70/289](#), the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$39,203,600 gross (\$36,416,900 net) for the maintenance of the Regional Service Centre for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Expenditures for the period totalled \$36,332,600 gross (\$33,646,000 net). The resulting unencumbered balance of \$2,871,000, in gross terms, represents 7.3 per cent of the appropriation, reflecting the combined effect of higher-than-budgeted expenditures under civilian personnel (\$223,200, or 0.9 per cent) and lower-than-budgeted expenditures under operational costs (\$3,094,200, or 21.1 per cent). An analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Centre for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 ([A/72/639](#)).

3. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Regional Service Centre for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 ([A/72/777](#)) in the paragraphs below.

4. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Regional Service Centre, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 ([A/72/5 \(Vol. II\)](#), chap. II). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to the Regional Service Centre on the following matters: (a) the relationship of the Regional Service Centre to Headquarters and client missions (*ibid.*, paras. 194–202); (b) key performance indicators and reports (*ibid.*, paras. 203–209); and (c) revision of the scalability model (*ibid.*, paras. 210–216). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the recommendations of the Board of Auditors will be implemented expeditiously.**

## III. Information on performance for the current period

5. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2018, expenditures amounted to \$20,076,200. At the end of the current financial period, the estimated total expenditures are expected to amount to \$32,995,500 against the appropriation of \$33,000,000, leaving a projected unencumbered balance of \$4,500, or 0.0 per cent, of the approved budget.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2018, the incumbency for the Regional Service Centre was as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved 2017/18</i>	<i>Encumbered</i>	<i>Vacancy rate (percentage)</i>
International staff	134	111	17.2
National staff			
National Professional Officers	31	24	22.6
National General Service staff	254	207	18.5
United Nations Volunteers	8	5	37.5

7. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the cash position of the Regional Service Centre was \$16,917,000 as at 5 March 2018, which covers the three-month operating cash reserve of \$8,250,000, leaving \$8,667,000 in remaining cash.

## IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to June 2019

### A. Mandate and planning assumptions

8. By its resolution [64/269](#), the General Assembly established the Regional Service Centre in July 2010 as a shared service centre for missions in the region under the global field support strategy. The Assembly subsequently decided, in its resolution [69/307](#), to give the Centre operational and managerial independence, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a budget proposal for the 2016/17 period, to be charged against the missions the Centre supported. In its resolution [71/293](#), the Assembly decided to consider at its seventy-second session the question of the financing of the Centre (see also [A/72/777](#), para. 1). The expected results and planning assumptions of the Centre for the 2018/19 period are summarized in paragraphs 2 to 40 of the report of the Secretary-General ([A/72/777](#)). Paragraphs 41 to 43 of that report provide information on regional mission cooperation, partnerships and country team coordination.

9. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, in 2018/19, the Regional Service Centre would participate in the planned end-to-end process of the East African corridor project (see [A/72/777](#), para. 6 (c)). The East African corridor project serves as a proof of concept for the integrated end-to-end supply chain for a limited number of commodities (see [A/71/835](#), para. 28). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the project began in April 2016 and focuses on six peacekeeping missions in Africa: the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The Committee was also informed that the project management team was established using internal resources from the Regional Service Centre, with pooled expertise from field missions, the Regional Procurement Office and Headquarters. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide more information on the East African corridor project in his next report, including on the status of implementation, resources utilized and results achieved.**

*Restructuring of the Regional Service Centre*

10. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, in line with the recommendations from the independent review, the Regional Service Centre proposed the reorganization of its structure into four service delivery sections by reorganizing existing resources to provide more customer-centric, standardized, timely and quality services to end users. The proposed restructuring would entail a number of staffing changes, as detailed in tables 6 to 12 of the report. The proposed new sections include the following:

(a) A Benefits and Payroll Section, comprising the international staff benefits and payroll service line, the onboarding and separation service line, the uniformed personnel benefits and payroll service line and the national staff benefits and payroll service line;

(b) A Staff Travel and Claims Section, comprising the travel service line, the claims service line and the education grant service line;

(c) A Client Service Section, comprising the Communication and Change Management Unit, the Client Relations and Knowledge Management Unit and the Client Support Unit;

(d) A Financial Services and Compliance Monitoring Section, comprising the Internal Control Unit, the Accounts Unit, the vendors service line and the cashier service line (see [A/72/777](#), para. 9).

11. The Advisory Committee recalls that, for the 2017/18 period, the Secretary-General also proposed to reorganize the structure of the Regional Service Centre from cross-functional service lines to service lines along the categories of personnel, which was subsequently approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [71/293](#) (see also [A/71/836/Add.9](#), para. 15). The Secretary-General stated in paragraph 16 of his report that, owing to the impact of the independent review, implementation of the 2017/18 structure was deferred in order to move directly into the new structure in the 2018/19 period. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the 2017/18 structure was not fully implemented and that dedicated benefits and payroll services lines were retained for international, national and uniformed personnel while onboarding and separation, travel and claims functions were consolidated. The Committee was also informed that the deferred implementation was overseen by the Regional Service Centre Steering Committee and based on recommendations of the shared services review conducted by the Department of Field Support.

12. The Advisory Committee further recalls that, as part of the 2017/18 restructuring proposal, the post of Service Delivery Manager (P-5) was proposed for establishment to manage the new Uniformed Personnel Section, which was recommended for approval by the Advisory Committee (see [A/71/836/Add.9](#), para. 34) and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution [71/293](#). The Committee notes from table 9 of the report of the Secretary-General that the P-5 post is now proposed for redeployment.

**13. While the Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed restructuring for the 2018/19 period, it notes with concern that the Secretariat did not fully implement the 2017/18 structure as approved by the General Assembly. The Committee emphasizes the importance of implementing the resolutions of the Assembly and of ensuring transparency in the management of resources. Considering the deferred implementation of the 2017/18 structure, the Committee is of the view that the P-5 post of Service Delivery Manager should not have been established in 2017/18. The Committee therefore recommends the abolishment of the P-5 post. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

*Governance arrangements*

14. In paragraph 21 of his report, the Secretary-General indicated that the governance arrangements of the Regional Service Centre included the Steering Committee (comprised of the Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support, the Directors in the Department of Field Support, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Client Board and the Chief of the Regional Service Centre as an ex officio member) and the Client Board (comprised of the Directors and Chiefs of Mission Support of the Centre's client missions, as well as the Chief of the Regional Service Centre as the Secretary of the Regional Service Centre User Group, which includes the Chief Human Resources Officer and the Chief Finance and Budget Officers of client missions).

15. The Advisory Committee recalls its view that the governance arrangements have created an additional administrative layer, so that the Regional Service Centre reports to the Department of Field Support through the Steering Committee, and that this may not be consistent with General Assembly resolution 69/307 (see [A/71/836/Add.9](#), para. 19). In the light of the decision of the General Assembly regarding the operational and managerial independence of the Centre and that the Centre should report directly to the Department of Field Support, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to refine the governance arrangements and provide an update in his next report on the Centre. The Committee's recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 71/293. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern that the governance arrangements have not been refined as requested, and reiterates that the governance arrangements should be reviewed to ensure that they are in accordance with resolution 69/307. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to conduct that review and to provide an update on a new structure in his next report.**

*Scalability*

16. In paragraph 35 of his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, for the 2018/19 period, the application of the updated scalability model to the Regional Service Centre would result in the following:

- (a) Element x: the fixed component amounts to 13 posts;
- (b) Element y: the account management component (as derived through the staffing parameters) amounts to 30 posts;
- (c) Element z: core transactional and direct service delivery: it is proposed that the Centre will support 9,394 clients on a weighted basis.

17. It is also stated that the updated scalability model incorporates an element of efficiency gain of 5 per cent, resulting in a reduction of 16 posts (see [A/72/777](#), para. 36). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, during the 2017/18 period, a multiplier of 27.7 was applied, compared with 29.0 for the 2018/19 period, which takes into account the 5 per cent efficiency gain.

18. The Advisory Committee recalls that the multiplier of 27.7 was also applied in 2016 and that it has expressed the view that the multiplier should reflect data from previous periods, as well as efficiency gains realized (see [A/71/836/Add.9](#), para. 22). **The Committee notes that the updated model reflects efficiency gains, although the report does not explain how the figure of 5 per cent was determined. The Advisory Committee considers that the scalability model should be further refined, and that future reports of the Secretary-General should include supporting data showing how the efficiency gains are determined, as well as**

detailed information on the multiplier applied. The Committee also reiterates that the scalability model should include the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre and Regional Information and Communications Technology Service (see A/71/836/Add.9, para. 24). The Committee makes further observations and recommendations on scalability in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

*Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre*

19. With respect to the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre, the Advisory Committee was provided upon enquiry with the table below on the coordination of flights by the Centre.

	<i>Troops</i>		<i>Regional flight schedule</i>			<i>Ad hoc and special flights</i>		
	<i>Number of troops</i>	<i>Baggage (kgs)</i>	<i>Passengers</i>	<i>Baggage (kgs)</i>	<i>Number of flights conducted</i>	<i>Passengers</i>	<i>Cargo/ baggage (kgs)</i>	<i>Number of flights conducted</i>
2016/17	–	–	31 005	585 239	1 126	9	341 804	33
July 2017 to February 2018	–	–	15 027	146 947	537	–	501 179	39
<b>Total</b>	–	–	<b>46 032</b>	<b>732 186</b>	<b>1 663</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>842 983</b>	<b>72</b>

20. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the mandate of the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre is to provide services to the client missions, including regional passenger/cargo transportation, troop movements, analysis and optimization of regional transportation resources, transportation governance within the region, infrastructure support services, mass evacuation/relocation support, strategic aeromedical support and technical training and technical certification qualification. The Committee was also informed that coordination and tasking authority for all strategic air operations has been delegated to the Strategic Air Operations Centre at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, while the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre focuses only on providing support for aircraft ground handling, refuelling and crew accommodation on a case-by-case basis. The Committee was further informed that the Strategic Air Operations Centre continues to provide global coordination of shared and regional air assets, although there was at present no coordination between the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre and the Strategic Air Operations Centre. **Taking into consideration the contradictory information provided and the lack of clarity on the roles of the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre and the Strategic Air Operations Centre, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to review the coordination between the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre and the Strategic Air Operations Centre and clarify their respective roles and responsibilities and the transfer of functions to the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre, and include that detailed information in his next report on the Regional Service Centre.** The detailed observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre and the Strategic Air Operations Centre are contained in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

*Regional Information and Communications Technology Service*

21. In paragraph 23 of his report, the Secretary-General stated that, during the 2018/19 period, the services to be provided by the Regional Information and Communications Technology Service would include regional projects such as fibre versus satellite — pilot testing of location-dependent, cost-efficient, high-bandwidth/low-latency connectivity using mid-orbit satellites. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the regional low-latency, high-bandwidth pilot project (called “O3b” or “fibre-over-satellite”) began with a signed contract in December 2015 and concluded on 28 June 2017, and included installations in eight sites across five missions (MONUSCO, MINUSCA, UNMISS, UNISFA and UNSOS). Total capacity projected at the end of the 2017/2018 period is 1,635 megabits per second. The Committee was further informed that phase 2 of the project (2017–2019) would include up to an additional 12 sites, with capacity for up to two gigabits per second and lower rates of megabits per second. **The Advisory Committee trusts that future reports on the Regional Service Centre will include updates on the project.**

*Nationalization of Field Service posts*

22. In its resolution 69/307, the General Assembly welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to continue the nationalization plan in a phased manner over a two-year period. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that, as at 1 July 2017, 13 of the 34 Field Service posts proposed for nationalization had been nationalized, and that, owing to the increase in the scope and volume of services and the learning curve of newly recruited local staff, no further nationalization was proposed at the present time; instead, it was proposed to grow the national staff complement of the Regional Service Centre through recruitment (see A/72/777, para. 19). **While it affirms the continued validity of the nationalization plan, the Advisory Committee acknowledges the Secretary-General’s explanation for its proposed discontinuation at the present time. The Committee trusts that the Regional Service Centre will monitor the situation with a view to reinstating the nationalization plan in the future if feasible.**

**B. Resource requirements**

23. The proposed budget for the Regional Service Centre for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 amounts to \$35,194,800, representing an increase of \$2,194,800, or 6.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The increase reflects proposed increases under civilian personnel and operational costs as elaborated below. Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances is provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget (A/72/777).

**1. Civilian personnel**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved 2017/18</i>	<i>Proposed 2018/19</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Posts			
International staff	134	132	(2)
National Professional Officers	31	30	(1)
National General Service	254	240	(14)
United Nations Volunteers	8	6	(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>(19)</b>

24. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2018/19 amount to \$27,118,000, representing an increase of \$2,135,700, or 8.5 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The proposed increase is mainly attributable to increased requirements under international staff (\$2,561,700, or 15.4 per cent) owing to the application of a lower vacancy rate, the proposed reclassification of two P-3 posts to the P-4 level and the proposed establishment of one P-3 post (see [A/72/777](#), para. 101).

*Vacancy rates*

25. The cost estimates for civilian personnel reflect vacancy rates of 10.0 per cent for international staff, 15.0 per cent for National Professional Officers, 12.0 per cent for national General Service staff and 10.0 per cent for United Nations Volunteers (see [A/72/777](#), para. 94). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed of the actual vacancy rates as at March 2018: 17.9 per cent for international staff, 22.6 per cent for National Professional Officers and 19.7 per cent for national General Service staff. The Committee was further informed of the actual average vacancy rates for the current period: 14.9 per cent for international staff, 19.4 per cent for National Professional Officers and 15.0 per cent for national General Service staff.

**26. The Advisory Committee reiterates that budgeted vacancy rates should be based, as much as possible, on actual vacancy rates (see [A/71/836/Add.9](#), para. 32). Therefore, the Committee recommends that the following vacancy rates be applied: 14.9 per cent for international staff, 19.4 per cent for National Professional Officers and 15.0 per cent for national General Service staff. Any related operational costs should be adjusted as appropriate.**

*Recommendations on posts and positions*

27. A total of 408 posts and positions are proposed for the 2018/19 period, reflecting proposed staffing changes comprising the abolishment of 21 posts and positions (3 international posts (2 P-3 and 1 P-2); 16 national posts (2 National Professional Officer and 14 national General Service); and 2 United Nations Volunteers positions) and the establishment of 2 posts (1 P-3 and 1 National Professional Officer) (see [A/72/777](#), para. 54).

28. Regarding the proposed abolishment of 21 posts and positions, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that a review was conducted of the need of each post/position in order to determine which were to be abolished, and that all the related functions have been absorbed by the Regional Service Centre within the current resources. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed abolishments and welcomes the absorption of the related functions by the Regional Service Centre.**

29. Two posts in the Regional Information and Communications Technology Service (1 P-3 and 1 National Professional Officer) are proposed for establishment. The proposed posts of Training Operations Officer (P-3) and Training Associate (National Professional Officer) would be responsible for the operational coordination, logistics and reporting of the United Nations Military Signals Academy. They would liaise with the strategic component in Headquarters to implement and track the United Nations Military Signals Academy programme in Entebbe and in the field, including reporting on courses, participants, the curriculum, lessons learned, challenges and areas for improvement (see [A/72/777](#), para. 93). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the functions of the two proposed posts were previously provided on an ad hoc basis through support from client missions. **The Advisory Committee was not provided with an adequate explanation as to why the functions could not continue to be provided by client missions. The Committee**



is therefore not convinced of the necessity for the two posts and recommends against the approval of their establishment. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.

30. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 13, 26 and 29 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian personnel.

## 2. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	<i>Apportioned 2017/18</i>	<i>Proposed 2018/19</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Operational costs	8 017 700	8 076 800	59 100

31. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2018/19 amount to \$8,076,800, representing an increase of \$59,100, or 0.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The proposed increase is mainly attributable to increased requirements under other supplies, services and equipment (\$123,800, or 20.1 per cent) and ground transportation (\$10,000, or 12.3 per cent) (see [A/72/777](#), paras. 105 and 107).

### *Official travel*

32. The proposed resources for official travel amount to \$298,500, representing a decrease of \$1,500, or 0.5 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2017/18. The requested resources include an amount of \$102,500 for training travel, representing an increase of \$16,500, or 19.2 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2017/18. The proposed number of participants for training, under both international and national staff, reflects a decrease from 1,817 to 747 participants, compared with 2017/18 (see [A/72/777](#), para. 99). **Taking into account the decrease in the number of training participants, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the proposed increase for training travel is not justified. Therefore, the Committee recommends that resources for training travel be maintained at the 2017/18 level, amounting to a reduction of \$16,500. The Committee reiterates the need for compliance with the advance purchase policy directive and judicious utilization of official travel resources (see [A/72/7/Add.44](#), paras. 4 and 7).**

### *Facilities and infrastructure*

33. In his report, the Secretary-General included a request for \$2,437,800 under facilities and infrastructure, representing a decrease of \$104,100, or 4.1 per cent, compared with the 2017/18 apportionment. The Advisory Committee notes from information provided to it that, under acquisition of engineering supplies, acquisition of furniture, utilities and waste disposal services, maintenance services, security services, stationery and office supplies, spare parts and supplies, and petrol, oil and lubricants, significant underexpenditure or no expenditure was recorded for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 periods. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the low level of expenditure under operational costs was due in part to a delay in the recording of charges or expenditure. **The Advisory Committee is not fully convinced by the explanation provided for the pattern of low expenditure, and is not satisfied that the proposed amounts are justified given the low expenditure pattern, noting that the trend is reflected in both the 2016/17 and 2017/18 periods. Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent, or \$365,700, to the proposed resources for facilities and infrastructure, so that resources under this category for 2018/19 would amount to \$2,072,100.**

*Ground transportation*

34. It is indicated that proposed resources for ground transportation would amount to \$91,300, representing an increase of \$10,000, or 12.3 per cent, compared with the 2017/18 apportionment. The Advisory Committee notes from information provided to it that, under repairs and maintenance, liability insurance and spare parts, there was underexpenditure or no expenditure during the 2016/17 and 2017/18 periods. **As noted in paragraph 33 above, the Committee is not fully convinced by the explanation provided for the low expenditure pattern and is not satisfied that the proposed amounts are justified given the low expenditure pattern. The Committee therefore recommends that resources be maintained at the 2017/18 level, representing a reduction of \$10,000, amounting to \$81,300 for ground transportation for the 2018/19 period.**

*Communications and information technology*

35. Under communications and information technology, the Secretary-General requested a provision in the amount of \$4,241,200, representing an increase of \$76,600, or 1.8 per cent, compared with the 2017/18 apportionment. The Advisory Committee notes from information provided to it that, under telecommunications and network services, spare parts and rental of equipment, significant underexpenditure or no expenditure has been recorded for the 2017/18 period. **In line with paragraph 33 above, the Committee is not fully convinced by the explanation provided for the underexpenditure, and is not satisfied that the proposed amounts are justified given the low expenditure pattern. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction in the amount of \$76,600, to maintain resources for this category at the 2017/18 level, so that resources for 2018/19 would amount to \$4,164,600.**

*Other supplies, services and equipment*

36. The proposed resources for other supplies, services and equipment amount to \$740,000, representing an increase of \$123,800, or 20.1 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2017/18. The Advisory Committee notes from information provided to it that under official functions, other hospitality, other freight and related costs and rations, other, significant underexpenditure or no expenditure was recorded for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 periods. **As noted in paragraph 33 above, the Committee is not fully convinced by the explanation provided for the low expenditure pattern, and is not satisfied that the proposed amounts are justified given the low expenditure pattern. The Committee therefore recommends that resources be maintained at the 2017/18 level, representing a reduction of \$123,800, amounting to \$616,200 for the 2018/19 period.**

37. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 13, 26, 29 and 32 to 36 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

## V. Conclusion

38. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the Regional Service Centre for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 are indicated in section V of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Centre (A/72/639). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of \$2,871,000 with respect to the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to \$112,200 for the period ended 30 June 2017, be credited to Member States.**

39. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the Regional Service Centre for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 are indicated in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget (A/72/777). **Taking into account its recommendations in paragraphs 13, 26, 29 and 32 to 36 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Appropriate the amount of \$32,938,900 for the maintenance of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for the 12-month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019;**

(b) **Prorate the amount in subparagraph (a) among the budgets of the Regional Service Centre's active client peacekeeping operations and against the approved programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.**

*Documentation*

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/639)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/777)
- Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/756)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/770)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/71/836/Add.9)
- General Assembly resolution 71/293 on the financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda