United Nations A/72/914

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 July 2018

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 158

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Felipe **García Landa** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 36th and 48th meetings, on 8 May and 5 July 2018. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/640 and A/72/640/Corr.1);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/72/839).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.50

4. At its 48th meeting, on 5 July, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" (A/C.5/72/L.50), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Chile.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.50 without a vote (see para. 6).

[1] A/C.5/72/SR.36 and A/C.5/72/SR.48.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1497 (2003) of 1 August 2003, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support the transitional government and to assist in the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement in Liberia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia for a period of 12 months, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 2333 (2016) of 23 December 2016, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission for a final period until 30 March 2018, and requested the Secretary-General to complete by 30 April 2018 the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian components, other than those required to complete the liquidation of the Mission,

Recalling further its resolution 58/315 of 1 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution 58/261 A of 23 December 2003 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 71/304 of 30 June 2017,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia as at 30 April 2018, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 22.7 million United States dollars, representing some 0.3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 99 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

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[1] A/72/640 and A/72/640/Corr.1.

[2] A/72/839.

3. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

5. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

8. *Stresses* the importance of applicable payments due to a staff member at the time of separation from service during the transitional period, taking into account the special situation of national staff, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure a timely treatment to all staff;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to identify potential outstanding commitments at least nine months before the physical closure of a mission in future pre-liquidation processes;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to identify and address on time and in full all the residual activities, including unforeseen liabilities identified after the closure of the Mission;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to rigorously pursue and complete the liquidation of assets, as planned, in accordance with regulation 5.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[3] including engaging with the authorities regarding potential donations and taking account of lessons learned, and to report thereon in the context of the final performance report;

12. *Notes with concern* the significant amount of contaminated soil collected during the liquidation of the Mission, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to reduce the long-term overall environmental footprint of the Mission in full compliance with the relevant rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, the United Nations environmental and waste management policy and procedures;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006, 61/276 of 29 June 2007, 64/269 of 24 June 2010, 65/289 of 30 June 2011, 66/264 of 21 June 2012, 69/307 of 25 June 2015 and 70/286 of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

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[3] ST/SGB/2013/4.

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

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017;[1]

16. *Decides* that Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission shall be credited with their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 11,062,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2017, as set out in its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

17. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 11,062,400 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Further decides* that, the increase of 783,600 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income, in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2017 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 11,062,400 dollars referred to in paragraphs 16 and 17 above;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia”.