



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 162

## Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

### Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Yaron Wax (Israel)

#### I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. During the second part of the resumed seventy-fourth session, the Fifth Committee met online owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, during which it considered the item.

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 for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 ([A/74/645](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 ([A/74/708](#));

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/74/737/Add.1](#)).

#### II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/74/L.49](#)

4. On 24 June 2020, the Chair of the Committee submitted for consideration under silence procedure, in accordance with General Assembly decisions 74/544 and 74/555, a draft resolution entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the



Referendum in Western Sahara” ([A/C.5/74/L.49](#)), submitted on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Poland.

5. On 27 June, the Committee considered draft resolution [A/C.5/74/L.49](#) adopted, in accordance with the process set out in decisions 74/544 and 74/555 (see para. 6). It also noted that it would take note of the resolution at its next meeting held after the cessation of the precautionary measures as soon as the circumstances allowed.

### 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 for the Referendum in Western Sahara**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara<sup>1</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* Security Council resolution [690 \(1991\)](#) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution [2494 \(2019\)](#) of 30 October 2019, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 October 2020,

*Recalling also* its resolution [45/266](#) of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution [73/324](#) of 3 July 2019, as well as its decision [73/555](#) of 3 July 2019,

*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. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the 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;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2020, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 47.2 million United States dollars, representing some 3.5 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 103 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;

3. *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;

<sup>1</sup> [A/74/645](#) and [A/74/708](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/74/737/Add.1](#).

4. *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;

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

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

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

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2</sup> and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish clear frameworks and guidelines to determine the solicitation procedure, whether invitation to bid or request for proposal, to be utilized for, inter alia, acquiring different types of goods and services, including aviation services, and to update the United Nations Procurement Manual accordingly;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take measures to ensure that the Organization conforms to best practices in public procurement with respect to transparency, including by placing additional information in the public domain on the outcome of procurement exercises conducted, including in the area of aviation services, so as to further increase the transparency of the procurement operations of the Organization, and to update the United Nations Procurement Manual accordingly;

11. *Notes* the ongoing development of impact-based performance indicators as part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General in his next report to provide information on how the indicators will measure the performance by the Mission of mandated tasks and the impact of resource allocation on that performance, as well as how the indicators will contribute to the identification of the required resources for each mandated task;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide in his next report an execution plan for, and analysis of, the implementation of the new Comprehensive Performance Assessment System, including on its correlation with mission planning and budget formulation, in order to facilitate consideration by the General Assembly of resource requests for implementation of the System;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen risk management and internal controls in the management of peacekeeping budgets, in order to facilitate mandate implementation and increase transparency, and to report thereon in his next report;

14. *Also emphasizes* the importance of overall budgetary performance in peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement the recommendations of the relevant oversight bodies, while giving due regard to the guidance and recommendations of the General Assembly, and to report thereon in the context of the performance reports;

15. *Notes with grave concern* the threat to life, health, safety and security caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the importance of ensuring the safety, security and health of peacekeeping personnel, maintaining the continuity of critical mandate delivery, including protection of civilians, minimizing the risk of mission activities causing the virus to spread and, where appropriate and within mandates, supporting national authorities, upon their request, in their response to COVID-19, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator and other United Nations entities in the country, and requests the Secretary-General to indicate in his next performance report how the Mission responded;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his next performance report information on how the Mission has responded and on lessons learned from past and present epidemics and pandemics, and to propose options for improving future preparedness for epidemics and pandemics, including for business continuity;

17. *Notes* the progress made in the implementation of the multi-year environmental strategy to reduce the footprint of peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to enhance measures for the implementation of the strategy in all peacekeeping missions, in line with the five pillars of the strategy, in accordance with particular conditions on the ground and in full compliance with the relevant rules and regulations, and to report thereon in the context of his next overview report;

18. *Expresses concern* over the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reported in peacekeeping missions, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse with regard to all civilian, military and police personnel, and to report thereon in the context of his next report on cross-cutting issues;

19. *Recognizes* the increasing security challenges faced by United Nations peacekeepers, reaffirms its commitment to the improvement of the safety and security of Mission personnel, in particular uniformed personnel, and requests the Secretary-General to further strengthen the measures in this regard and to report thereon to the General Assembly in the context of the next budget submission for the Mission;

20. *Reaffirms* the provisions of section XVIII of its resolution [61/276](#), further recognizes the important role played by quick-impact projects in supporting the implementation of mission mandates, stresses the need for the timely, responsible and accountable implementation of all such projects, and requests the Secretary-General to enhance their impact while addressing underlying challenges;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider options for greater nationalization of functions when formulating budget submissions, commensurate with mission mandates and requirements;

22. *Reiterates its concern* about the high number of vacancies in civilian staffing, and further reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts are filled expeditiously;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts are filled expeditiously, and decides not to abolish the posts that have been vacant for 24 months or longer during the current budget period;

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review the posts that have been vacant for 24 months or longer and to propose in his next budget submission either their retention, with clear justification of need, or their abolishment;

25. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a comparative assessment of the services provided by respective entities for mine action activities and to provide the results in the context of his next report;

26. *Recognizes* the important role played by regional and subregional actors for peacekeeping operations, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to deepen the partnership, cooperation and coordination of the United Nations with regional and subregional actors, in accordance with relevant mandates, and to provide information on such deepened engagement in the context of his next report;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#), [60/266](#), [61/276](#), [64/269](#), [65/289](#), [66/264](#), [69/307](#) and [70/286](#);

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

#### **Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019**

29. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019;<sup>3</sup>

#### **Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021**

30. *Decides* to appropriate to the special account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 61,740,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, inclusive of 57,524,700 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 3,288,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, 554,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and 373,000 dollars for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda;

#### **Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021**

31. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 20,580,067 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2020 in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution [73/272](#) of 22 December 2018, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2020, as set out in its resolution [73/271](#) of 22 December 2018;

32. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution [973 \(X\)](#) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 31 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 961,633 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 842,533 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 88,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 18,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 13,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

33. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 41,160,133 dollars for the period from 1 November 2020 to 30 June 2021, at a monthly rate of 5,145,017 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution [73/272](#), taking into account the scale of assessments for 2020 and 2021, as set out in its resolution [73/271](#), subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

34. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution [973 \(X\)](#), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 33 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of

<sup>3</sup> [A/74/645](#).

1,923,267 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,685,067 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 176,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 36,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 26,000 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

35. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 31 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 896,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2019, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution [73/272](#), taking into account the scale of assessments for 2019, as set out in its resolution [73/271](#);

36. *Further 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 896,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2019, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 35 above;

37. *Decides* that the increase of 199,400 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2019 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 896,200 dollars referred to in paragraphs 35 and 36 above;

38. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution [1502 \(2003\)](#) of 26 August 2003;

39. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

40. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara”.