



# General Assembly

Seventy-sixth session

## Official Records

Distr.: General  
20 July 2022

Original: English

### Fifth Committee

#### Summary record of the 13th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 3 May 2022, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Margaryan . . . . . (Armenia)  
*later:* Mr. Elmahs (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Egypt)  
*Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions:* Ms. Chiurazzi-Maxfield

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(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### **Organization of work (A/C.5/76/L.29)**

1. **The Chair** said that the Committee had before it the note by the Secretariat on the status of preparedness of documentation for the Fifth Committee during the second part of the resumed seventy-sixth session (A/C.5/76/L.29), which had been updated a number of times since its issuance. The Bureau had notified Committee members of those updates and would provide information on further updates as they arose, in accordance with established practices.

2. The Committee also had before it the tentative and provisional programme of work for the second part of the resumed session, which had been designed to make the best use of the time allotted. The programme of work would be monitored regularly and adjusted as necessary to reflect the pace of the discussions and the availability of documents.

3. **Ms. Ijaz** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee's gradual return to traditional working methods, following the temporary arrangements adopted during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, was critical to promoting meaningful engagement among Member States. The Group would participate actively in the in-person meetings scheduled to be held throughout the current part of the resumed session.

4. The timely updating and issuance of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions were welcome, as such efforts enabled the Committee to complete its work effectively. The Group would thoroughly consider the agenda items before the Committee, including the item, deferred from the first part of the resumed session, on improving the financial situation of the United Nations, an issue that was critical to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Secretariat and effective mandate fulfilment. The Group also attached great importance to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations, in particular cross-cutting issues, closed peacekeeping missions, the support account for peacekeeping operations, and the budgets of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. Those matters should be considered carefully and expeditiously to ensure that peacekeeping operations had the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates.

5. The Group paid tribute to United Nations peacekeepers, in particular those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace. The recent

deaths of 20 peacekeepers in Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo was a reminder of the magnitude of the risks faced by peacekeepers and the importance of ensuring their safety and security through the appropriate allocation of resources. The relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, especially Security Council resolutions 2518 (2020) and 2589 (2021), must be fully implemented in order to ensure that all appropriate measures were taken to enhance the safety and security of peacekeepers, and that perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers were held accountable. At the current part of the resumed session, the Group would focus on building on the previous year's resolution on closed peacekeeping missions in order to find a fair solution to the issue of unpaid assessments, accounts payable and other liabilities. The Group would also engage actively in the discussions on other matters, including the revised estimates for the implementation of the strategic action plan of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All, accessibility for persons with disabilities and sexual exploitation and abuse. The Group was committed to ensuring that the Committee concluded its discussions within the time allotted.

6. **Mr. Camelli** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer) said that the European Union and its member States commended United Nations peacekeepers on their hard work, bravery and commitment, and paid tribute to those who had sacrificed their lives for peace. The dedication of peacekeepers, despite the challenges they faced, enabled the Organization to remain a beacon of peace. The European Union and its member States strongly condemned the unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, as it represented a blatant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles underpinning the Organization. The Committee's role in supporting peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates worldwide was thus critical.

7. The European Union and its member States remained staunch supporters of United Nations peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Acutely aware of the shared responsibility that peacekeeping and peacebuilding entailed, the European Union and its member States worked closely with the United Nations and other partners, such as the African Union, on issues related to peace and security. In an increasingly complex environment, it was the Committee's responsibility to ensure that peacekeeping operations had the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates. The European Union and its member States attached great importance to the performance and cost-efficient conduct of peacekeeping

missions, and would thus ensure that they were adequately funded, staffed and equipped.

8. As the second-largest collective contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping budget, the European Union welcomed the progress achieved in managing the liquidity situation of peacekeeping operations but remain concerned at the Organization's continued inability to liquidate closed peacekeeping operations. Member States could resolve that issue by taking action to improve the liquidity situation of the regular budget; the European Union and its member States stood ready to do so without further delay. At the same time, it was the Committee's responsibility to enable long-term planning, for the missions and for the peacekeepers themselves. Member States must therefore pay their contributions to peacekeeping missions in full, on time and without conditions, in accordance with the Charter. The European Union and its member States provided peacekeeping operations with uniformed personnel, equipment and other capabilities, and commended all Member States that participated actively in peacekeeping. His delegation welcomed the opportunity to reassess the rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries at the current part of the resumed session.

9. The resources for peacekeeping operations could not be considered in isolation from the administrative and budgetary policies that helped the Secretariat to carry out those operations. It was the Committee's responsibility to provide the Secretariat with guidance in that regard. Discussions on peacekeeping policy fell within the scope of cross-cutting issues; the European Union and its member States would spare no effort in achieving consensus on a draft resolution on such issues at the current part of the resumed session, despite the Committee's failure to adopt such a draft resolution at the previous five sessions. At the previous two sessions in particular, the Committee had discussed cross-cutting issues in conjunction with budgetary proposals, a practice that was neither desirable nor sustainable. A more inclusive and meaningful work process was therefore necessary. In the future, the European Union and its member States would clearly distinguish between budgetary proposals for specific missions and cross-cutting issues by refraining from introducing wording concerning cross-cutting policies into draft resolutions on the budgets of individual peacekeeping operations; they invited other Committee members to do the same.

10. The European Union and its member States were committed to strengthening peacekeeping in accordance with the priorities of the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping

Operations, issued as part of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, in particular gender parity, the environmental footprint of missions, human rights and sexual exploitation and abuse. As missions were drawn down, efforts were being made to build sustainable peace through a range of activities to promote economic development and protect human rights. The European Union and its member States therefore looked forward to discussing ways to ensure more predictable and sustainable funding for the Peacebuilding Fund.

11. The European Union and its member States would seek the guidance of the Bureau and other members of the Committee in order to make the most of the return to in-person meetings. At the same time, the improvements introduced by the use of remote working methods over the past two years, notably in terms of efficiency, should be leveraged. The European Union and its member States would fully engage in deliberations during working hours, while calling for the preservation of work-life balance. The Committee must adhere to deadlines that allowed the Secretariat to implement General Assembly resolutions in a timely manner. Delegations must have the political will to adopt adequate, sustainable budgets that enabled effective mandate implementation. The Committee should send a positive message to staff and troops in the field by concluding its work in the allotted time and achieving consensus on the matters before it.

12. **Mr. Penaranda** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), paid tribute to civilian and uniformed personnel serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations under challenging circumstances. Despite improvements in the health situation in previous months, COVID-19 infection rates were rising once again, having recently reached their highest levels in nearly three months. ASEAN therefore looked forward to the updating of the Committee's working methods on the basis of advice from the United Nations and relevant authorities.

13. ASEAN attached great importance to the consideration of the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including cross-cutting issues, closed peacekeeping operations and the support account. He hoped that the Committee would agree on viable ways to address post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among uniformed personnel and welcomed the efforts that had been made in that regard in 2022.

14. Peacekeeping missions must have adequate resources to fulfil their mandates, given their important role in protecting civilians, preventing conflict,

reducing violence, strengthening security and supporting the early stages of peacebuilding. The resources allocated to such missions must address their needs and ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers. ASEAN looked forward to the discussions on investing in peacebuilding, including on providing support for the Peacebuilding Fund and exploring innovative ways to increase its effectiveness. Troop- and police-contributing countries must be reimbursed in a timely fashion so that they could improve their operational capabilities and sustain their long-term contribution to peacekeeping operations. ASEAN looked forward to receiving regular updates on such reimbursements in the Secretary-General's reports on the overview of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In their deliberations on peacekeeping and peacebuilding, Member States must take into account the serious threat to the safety and security of peacekeepers posed by COVID-19.

15. **Mr. Eboa Ebongue** (Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group paid tribute to United Nations civilian and military personnel who had lost their lives in the pursuit of international peace and security. Although subject to change, the provisional programme of work for the current part of the resumed session would serve as a valuable guide for the Committee's work. The Group trusted that the programme of work would be gradually adjusted to reflect progress made.

16. Despite the steps taken to ensure the timely issuance of documents, a number of documents remained unavailable or had been issued late. Continued efforts must be made to ensure the timely availability of documents at the current part of the resumed session. The Group also remained concerned about multilingualism, noting that some documents had only been made available in one language, in blatant violation of United Nations regulations. As conditions gradually returned to normal following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group hoped that the Committee would make every effort to hold its formal and informal meetings in person so as to capitalize on the availability of interpretation and thus ensure the full participation of all delegations.

17. At the second part of the resumed seventy-fifth session, the Committee had reverted to a mission-by-mission approach to the consideration of peacekeeping budget proposals rather than arbitrarily establishing an amount to be distributed across missions, with no objective basis. The Group would ensure that, at the current part of the resumed seventy-sixth session, each proposal was considered on the basis of its own merits and the specific characteristics of mission activities.

18. The Group attached great importance to investing in prevention and peacebuilding, a new matter before the Committee at the current part of the resumed seventy-sixth session. The Group had clearly expressed its position on that topic at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding, held on 27 April 2022. It had also supported a statement made on behalf of a cross-regional group of 108 countries, in which it had been requested that all funding options be considered, including assessed contributions. The Group called for adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding. A percentage of assessed contributions should therefore be allocated to peacebuilding, including through the budgets of United Nations missions and through the Peacebuilding Fund. At the current part of the resumed session, the Group would ensure that the peacebuilding received a level of resources that was commensurate with its aims.

19. He thanked the heads of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, for hosting the Committee's visit to those countries between 19 and 26 April 2022. The visit had enabled Committee members to witness first-hand the day-to-day realities faced by field personnel, and had enabled the correction of misperceptions that often distorted discussions regarding the true needs of missions. He was grateful to the permanent missions of the host countries for delivering the required visas in a timely manner and to the Committee secretariat for successfully organizing the visit. He hoped that a longer visit to a greater number of missions, with a higher number of participants, could be conducted in 2023. The Group would work to ensure that peacekeeping missions were provided with the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates and that the Committee completed its work within the allotted time.

20. **Mr. Arbeiter** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, as the second part of the resumed session focused on peacekeeping operations, the three delegations wished to pay tribute to the military, police and civilian personnel who served in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world, demonstrating selflessness in their pursuit of peace and security. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to engaging constructively in the Committee's discussions in order to find consensus on all policy and budgetary issues connected with United Nations peacekeeping.

21. As the Committee began to consider the allocation of resources to peacekeeping, the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian

Federation continued unabated. The three delegations called on the Russian Federation to cease fighting and end the humanitarian catastrophe that it had created by withdrawing its forces from Ukraine. If the Russian Federation continued its war, growing humanitarian needs and financial pressures would complicate the Organization's work around the world and strain its capacities to maintain and promote international peace and security, human rights and development.

22. Noting that the Committee had been unable to achieve consensus on a draft resolution regarding cross-cutting policy issues since 2016, Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed efforts to adopt such a draft resolution at the current part of the resumed session, in order to ensure the consistent implementation of policy priorities across all peacekeeping missions. At the current part of the resumed session, the three delegations would continue to focus on the women and peace and security agenda, in order to ensure the full participation of women in peacekeeping. They would also focus on accountability to and of peacekeepers, including by strengthening the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in order to ensure the availability of adequate and timely response mechanisms centred on victims and survivors. In addition, the three delegations would focus on providing adequate resources for the implementation of mandates to protect civilians and children, prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, promote and defend human rights, and ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers.

23. Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on investing in prevention and peacebuilding ([A/76/732](#)), as well as his proposal to allocate assessed contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund, developments that were particularly timely considering the negative impact of conflict, COVID-19 and climate change on prevention. Australia, Canada and New Zealand strongly supported United Nations peacebuilding and were major voluntary contributors to the Peacebuilding Fund, as proactive investment in peace reduced the need for costly responses following the outbreak of crises and conflicts.

24. Despite the impressive results achieved through the Peacebuilding Fund owing to its flexibility and responsiveness, demand for peacebuilding support exceeded the available funds. While Member States should consider making voluntary contributions to the Fund, the use of assessed contributions would ensure the availability of adequate, sustainable and predictable resources in order to deliver results over the long term. The three delegations were encouraged by the expressions of support for the Fund at the high-level

meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding and were confident that the Committee would ensure increased investment in peace at the current part of the resumed session.

25. The United Nations should work effectively, efficiently and accountably to achieve the collective goals of Member States. In order to do so, the Organization must have available cash to implement budgeted activities. During the first part of the resumed session, the Committee had nearly achieved consensus on measures to enhance liquidity without increasing Member State assessments. The Committee must agree on such measures at the current part of the resumed session in order to avoid the recurrence of liquidity shortfalls in 2024.

26. System-wide mainstreaming of disability inclusion was also critical, as the pandemic, in particular, had demonstrated the need to enable persons with disabilities to meaningfully participate in and contribute to the Organization's work. While Australia, Canada and New Zealand welcomed the improvements mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system ([A/76/694](#)), much remained to be done in that regard, including as a result of pandemic-related delays. The three delegations welcomed the opportunity to engage with the Secretary-General in order to address that issue.

27. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that her delegation paid tribute to United Nations peacekeepers, including those who had lost their lives in the cause of peace, and to United Nations staff who remained engaged in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contribution of peacekeeping operations to international peace and security was invaluable. To succeed in their work, the 90,000 military, police and civilian personnel serving in peacekeeping operations needed the political and financial support of Member States. As a consistent partner of United Nations peacekeeping missions, Norway would continue to promote robust peacekeeping budgets that supported effective mandate implementation, including by ensuring appropriate financing for activities relating to human rights and gender.

28. The support functions of peacekeeping missions, cross-cutting issues such as gender and equality, and the eradication of sexual exploitation and abuse of and by peacekeepers were critical to mandate fulfilment. While noting with regret that the Committee had not adopted a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues since 2016, Norway strongly encouraged it to do so at the current part of the resumed session. Despite signs of

improvement, the Organization's financial situation remained a matter of concern. A strong and coordinated United Nations was necessary in order to address global challenges. Norway commended countries that had paid their assessed contributions in full and on time, while also welcoming the steps taken by the United States of America to reduce its arrears.

29. **Mr. Kariuki** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom had supported United Nations peacekeeping since its inception. For example, the United Kingdom had recently marked the conclusion of its presidency of the Security Council by dedicating a tree on the North Lawn of the United Nations Headquarters complex to the memory of Brian Urquhart, the former British Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs widely known as one of the main architects of United Nations peacekeeping.

30. At the current part of the resumed session, the Committee must ensure that peacekeeping operations received adequate and cost-effective financing and staffing in order to fulfil their mandates, including those relating to human rights and gender, while building on lessons learned from the pandemic. It must also break its pattern of failing to agree on a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues in order to provide proper guidance in that regard.

31. The United Kingdom paid tribute to the sacrifices of peacekeepers and those who supported them. It looked forward to discussing troop reimbursement rates, the safety, security and health of peacekeeping personnel, including their mental health, and the proposed PTSD framework for uniformed personnel. Safety and security should be universal rights. The United Kingdom expected Member States to agree on a draft resolution on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse at the current part of the resumed session, and urged sustained system-wide action in that regard through strengthened leadership and organizational culture, including in the areas of prevention, response and survivor support. Given that peacekeeping was the largest contributor to climate change in the United Nations system, he encouraged further progress to reduce their environmental impact, including through efficient, professional and sustainable supply chain management.

32. Given the importance of ensuring the effectiveness and inclusivity of activities across the United Nations system, adequate funding should be ensured for the strategic action plan of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All, in order to enable the Organization to benefit from diverse perspectives and life experiences. The United Kingdom

looked forward to discussing efforts to enhance the accessibility of United Nations meetings and conferences for persons with disabilities. It also looked forward to discussing ways to enhance funding for prevention and peacebuilding, and to resuming discussions on improving the financial situation of the United Nations.

33. The United Kingdom welcomed the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Office for Investigation and Oversight Services (OIOS). It was concerned about the impact of the illegal war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on all areas of the Organization's work, in particular humanitarian activities, the protection of human rights, including the human rights of women and children, and the response to the global food and fuel crises. That war must end.

34. **Mr. Lu** (United States of America) said that his delegation paid tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel of the United Nations, in particular those that had lost their lives in the cause of peace. As the Committee considered the budgets for peacekeeping missions at the current part of the resumed session, it must not forget the tragic situation caused by the unprovoked aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Committee must also strike an appropriate balance between remote and in-person meetings.

35. United Nations peacekeeping was essential to creating the opportunities and trust necessary to find political solutions in environments in which international peace and security were threatened. The role of the Committee was to provide policy guidance and resources to enable peacekeeping missions to efficiently and effectively carry out their mandates. His delegation was thus deeply concerned at the Committee's inability to adopt a draft resolution on cross-cutting policies at the previous six sessions, particularly given the changes in the peacekeeping landscape during that time, with many critical issues requiring the Committee's attention. All references to cross-cutting policy issues should therefore be confined to the draft resolution on cross-cutting issues.

36. The United States was closely reviewing the assumptions underlying the proposed peacekeeping budget of \$6.5 billion in order to determine their validity. It would also carefully examine the Advisory Committee's recommendations in that regard, noting that, in previous sessions, the Chair of the Advisory Committee had been available during informal consultations in order to explain the rationale for that Committee's recommendations. Funding for peacekeeping missions should be discussed holistically

rather than on a mission-by-mission basis, and the Secretariat's expertise in mission resource distribution should be leveraged.

37. General Assembly resolution 67/261 on the report of the Senior Advisory Group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/289 to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and other related issues remained a watershed agreement that strengthened the peacekeeping partnership. The United States thanked the Secretariat staff and troop-contributing countries that had contributed to the survey conducted in support of the quadrennial review of the standard rate of reimbursement in 2021/22 and was studying the results in order to determine whether an increase was justified. The United States remained committed to a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to survivor-centred responses, accountability, especially for senior management, and prevention measures that addressed the root causes of such abuse. His delegation also had zero tolerance for sexual harassment; all members of the United Nations community must feel safe in the workplace and have confidence that perpetrators at all seniority levels would be held accountable for their actions.

38. **Mr. Kimura** (Japan) said that his delegation paid tribute to the dedication of uniformed and civilian personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, and to their sacrifices in the cause of peace. United Nations peacekeeping operations were essential to international peace and security, and must be adequately funded to fulfil their mandates. However, resources must be used effectively and efficiently, and his delegation would focus, at the current part of the resumed session, on accountability and the impact of operations, and on each mission's performance.

39. No resolution on cross-cutting policies had been adopted at the preceding five sessions. His delegation aimed to uphold the responsibility of Member States to provide United Nations peacekeeping operations with guidance on a wide range of administrative and budgetary policies.

40. Japan would engage in all discussions at the current part of the resumed session, in particular those relating to investing in prevention and peacebuilding, reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries and improving the Organization's financial situation, with a view to achieving consensus on all matters within the time allotted. While the return to in-person meetings would enable more intensive and effective deliberations, the best practices identified during the pandemic, such as paperless drafting and the

holding of virtual meetings in a small-group format, should be maintained in order to promote efficiency.

41. **Mr. Tona** (Rwanda) said that Rwanda strongly supported United Nations peacekeeping operations and was deeply committed to peace and security. It therefore attached particular importance to the second part of the resumed session. Rwanda was among the four largest contributors to peacekeeping; its nationals had previously served in missions in Haiti and Darfur and were currently serving in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, often facing security threats, including during the pandemic. Rwanda was grateful for their courage and sacrifice.

42. Peacekeeping was critical in enabling the United Nations to advance global peace and security. The peacekeeping budget guaranteed the ability of peacekeeping operations to fulfil their mandates. Member States had a duty to ensure the availability of adequate funding for logistics supply, personnel sustainment, equipment, training and capacity-building for missions. Rwanda was nevertheless concerned at the Secretariat's decision to reduce the mission subsistence allowance for individual uniformed personnel in some missions, including UNMISS and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Such personnel were the driving force of peacekeeping missions, and such decisions could adversely affect missions' operational performance. To address the challenges presented by the evolving environments in which peacekeepers operated, funding should be provided for the adoption of innovative solutions, including technologies such as drones, in all areas of peacekeeping.

43. **Mr. Dai Bing** (China) said that financial resources were the foundation of the Organization's governance. The Committee should review the peacekeeping budget in an evidence-based, scientific and prudent manner, approve it within the allotted time and provide peacekeeping operations with the necessary resources to fulfil their mandates. The Secretariat should strengthen comprehensive budget performance management, improve internal control and strictly enforce financial discipline so that every penny spent enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Given the significant level of the peacekeeping budget, China supported the role of the Board of Auditors as an external audit body that made valuable recommendations on budget management.

44. China was concerned at the considerable increase in the proposed peacekeeping budget for the period 2022/23 and would like it to be reviewed carefully and comprehensively. The United Nations should fulfil its

obligation to reimburse troop- and police-contributing countries in a timely manner. United Nations peacekeeping operations had made significant contributions to international peace and security, and China paid tribute to all peacekeepers. At the same time, peacekeepers were facing increasing security threats. In 2021 alone, more than 110 peacekeepers had lost their lives, and in March 2022, another 8 peacekeepers had died in a helicopter crash. As the second-largest contributor to the peacekeeping budget and a major troop- and police-contributing country, China was deeply concerned at that situation. It hoped that the Organization would implement the Security Council resolutions and initiatives aimed at ensuring the security of peacekeepers, allocating adequate resources to advance that goal.

45. The Organization's liquidity situation would not be resolved until its root cause was addressed. Any potential solutions should not impose an additional financial burden on Member States, particularly developing countries. The largest contributor to the Organization's budgets had not taken the lead in fulfilling its financial obligations over the years, a situation that was unfair to other countries. Relevant reforms should strictly adhere to the spirit of the Charter, be driven by Member States, strengthen financial discipline and improve comprehensive budget performance.

46. The Organization should diversify peacebuilding financing channels through innovative partnerships, and clarify existing mandated arrangements in order to avoid placing unnecessary financial pressure on Member States. The peacebuilding budget should be prepared strictly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

47. Given the continuing spread of COVID-19 and the turbulent international situation, global pandemic recovery efforts faced severe challenges. As the largest developing country, China remained focused on its national pandemic response, economic development and livelihood improvement efforts. China had fulfilled its financial obligations to the Organization, having recently paid more than \$200 million in assessed contributions. Member States in arrears, in particular those with the capacity to pay, should fulfil their financial obligations as soon as possible, in order to tangibly demonstrate their support for the Organization's central role in global governance. Given the resurgence of COVID-19 in New York, he hoped that the Committee Bureau and secretariat would continuously assess the impact of the pandemic on meetings.

48. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh) said that peacekeeping was critical in enabling the United Nations to advance global peace and security. Bangladesh attached great importance to peacekeeping and had long been at the forefront of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. It was currently the leading troop- and police-contributing country, with more than 6,500 peacekeepers serving in nine missions, and a total of 160 of its peacekeepers and lost their lives in the line of duty. The contribution of Bangladesh to global peace initiatives had been duly recognized by the international community, as evidenced by its recent election as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission. Given its focus on peacekeeping budgets, the second part of the resumed session was of particular importance to Bangladesh, which would engage actively in discussions in order to achieve a consensus-based outcome.

49. Timely and adequate funding was critical to the success of any operation. Delays in reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries exacerbated the financial burdens they faced. Member States should pay their peacekeeping assessments in full and on time in order to provide appropriate logistical support for peacekeepers. At the same time, the Secretariat should strengthen comprehensive budget performance, improve internal control and rigorously enforce financial discipline. The Board of Auditors' recommendations to improve the management of peacekeeping budgets should also be implemented. However, the allocation of resources to peacekeeping missions must be based on their mandates and the situation on the ground, and should not become a mechanical cost-cutting exercise.

50. Peacekeepers had continued to fulfil their mandates with the highest level of professionalism and integrity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The international community must understand the challenging conditions faced by peacekeepers and make every effort to ensure their safety and security. The Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative provided necessary guidance in that regard. The current security and socioeconomic conditions required the realignment of peacekeeping mandates to include tasks not traditionally assigned to peacekeepers. Peacekeeping operations must also be provided with peacebuilding capabilities in order to enhance resilience and build the capacities of host countries' security and governance institutions.

51. Continued efforts were needed to ensure that women participated fully in peacekeeping in all positions, in particular senior leadership positions, as indicated by the Security Council in its resolution [2538 \(2020\)](#). Greater participation of women in peacekeeping

was a key strategic objective of his country's action plan on women and peace and security.

52. **Mr. Mnguni** (South Africa) said that most active United Nations peacekeeping operations were in Africa; such operations were essential to ensuring stability, peace and prosperity on that continent, in accordance with the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. He hoped that the Committee would reach a timely consensus on the peacekeeping budget. The overall budget for peacekeeping operations should be adequate to enable mandate fulfilment.

53. As a troop- and police-contributing country, South Africa appreciated all uniformed and civilian personnel serving in field operations, often under difficult and dangerous conditions. He paid tribute to all personnel who had lost their lives in the pursuit of peace and security. As a current member of the Peacebuilding Commission, South Africa believed that activities in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace could help to save lives and reduce the financial resources required to address emerging crises. The identification of new and more sustainable funding sources for the Peacebuilding Fund would strengthen the Fund's role and ability to ensure the strategic alignment of funding. It would also enhance transparency, accountability and effectiveness, ensuring national ownership for mandate fulfilment system-wide. His delegation therefore looked forward to constructive engagement on the Secretary-General's proposal that the General Assembly appropriate \$100 million to the Peacebuilding Fund for the 12-month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

54. Having participated in the survey to support the 2021/22 review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries, South Africa looked forward to discussing its findings. His delegation would also give priority to such issues as civilian protection and personnel safety; partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional entities; the exploration of additional innovative ways to promote procurement from developing countries; the contribution of programmatic activities to the implementation of peacekeeping mandates, including those relating to conflict prevention and resolution; and the role of quick-impact projects in supporting the fulfilment of peacekeeping mandates and in strengthening links between missions and local populations.

55. The pandemic had had a disproportionate impact on the economies of developing countries, in particular in Africa, exacerbating some conflict situations. A peacekeeping budget that adequately supported global peace and stability was thus crucial, and the

appropriation of an additional \$100 million to the Peacebuilding Fund was more necessary than ever.

56. **Ms. Jun Ji Sun** (Republic of Korea) said that her Government strongly supported United Nations peacekeeping operations and had successfully hosted the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference in Seoul in December 2021, thus advancing collective efforts to enhance international peace and security. Two years since the outbreak of the pandemic, the international community faced another global crisis as a result of the situation in Ukraine, which had caused an unexpected and sharp increase in fuel and food prices. Those increases might undermine the activities of peacekeeping operations and place a strain on their budgets, jeopardizing the Organization's efforts to maintain and restore international peace and security.

57. Peacekeeping operations should be funded appropriately for mandate implementation. In tandem, areas in which effectiveness, efficiency and budgetary accountability could be increased should be identified. Her delegation attached great importance to cross-cutting issues, which were essential to the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of peacekeeping operations. The Republic of Korea looked forward to reaching consensus and providing the Secretariat with clear guidelines on the matter. Given the General Assembly's commitment to the system-wide zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, that policy should be implemented in peacekeeping missions.

58. In line with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, it was important to thoroughly review the guidelines and management of resources, including human resources, for all drawdown and liquidation activities after the end of a mission's mandate. Adequate, predictable and sustained financing should also be ensured for peacebuilding, an increasingly important aspect of the Organization's work. Her delegation appreciated and looked forward to further discussion of the Secretary-General's proposal to appropriate \$100 million in assessed contributions to the Peacekeeping Fund on an annual basis.

59. **Mr. Velázquez Castillo** (Mexico) said that Mexico was confident that, with the full cooperation of its members, the Committee would adopt the peacekeeping budget at the current part of the resumed session in a timely and responsible manner. His delegation would carefully review the peacekeeping-related reports prepared by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee and the various oversight bodies for consideration at the current part of the resumed session. Mexico would participate actively in the

deliberations on those reports, especially on matters to which it attached particular importance.

60. As a contributor of financial and human resources, his Government was committed to peacekeeping operations. He paid tribute to the civilian, military and police personnel working in those operations, often under complex and high-risk circumstances involving serious security threats arising from prolonged conflict, natural disasters and health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The most significant matter before the Committee, both in quantitative terms and in terms of its impact on the work of the Organization, was the proposed peacekeeping budget for 2022/23, which would help to ensure mandate fulfilment. The level of resources allocated to each active peacekeeping operation would be reflected in its performance, including its efficiency in fulfilling its mandate and its robustness, timeliness and effectiveness in responding to challenges.

61. The content and scope of budget performance reports had a critical impact on transparency and accountability, principles that must be upheld in order to inspire confidence that the resources entrusted to the Secretary-General by Member States were being managed and used effectively and efficiently. Mexico would analyse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board of Auditors and OIOS in order to clarify the nature and appropriateness of specific requirements in comparison with needs met, expenditure incurred and performance evaluations conducted during previous budget periods. Mexico was confident that the Fifth Committee would, in good time and due form, achieve consensus on a level of resources for active peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and the support account that would enable optimal, agile and efficient mandate fulfilment.

62. He hoped that the Committee would, at the current part of the resumed session, adopt a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues, including sexual exploitation and abuse, the PTSD framework for uniformed personnel and the results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries, as that would enable it to update the policy guidelines for the Secretariat and peacekeeping operations themselves. His delegation would participate constructively in the discussions on those issues and on accessibility, improving the financial situation of the United Nations, the revised estimates for the implementation of the strategic action plan of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All, and the budgetary

implications of the draft decision on the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

63. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation attached great importance to the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping, accurate budget planning, the rational use of resources and the effective management of peacekeeping operations. It was regrettable that the General Assembly had not adopted a resolution on cross-cutting issues for five years. At the same time, his delegation welcomed the Assembly's approval, in 2021, of various instructions addressed to the Secretary-General in resolutions on the financing of each peacekeeping operation. The Russian Federation was convinced that the formulations agreed upon could form the basis of a resolution on cross-cutting issues. A pragmatic approach to the resolution would allow the Committee to reach a consensus. His delegation also expected that, for the first time in many years, Member States would at last be able to take a decision on closed peacekeeping operations.

64. The Russian Federation trusted that the Secretariat would fulfil its financial obligations to troop- and police-contributing countries, and that any unspent balance would be returned to Member States. The search for additional savings should be aimed at improving the efficiency and accountability of the Secretariat. Above all, cuts in peacekeeping budgets should not undermine the fulfilment of Security Council mandates. When the appropriations for each peacekeeping operation were approved, the specific characteristics of the operation's activities should be taken into account.

65. In response to Committee members that had referred to Ukraine in their statements, he said that the States that they represented had, through sanctions and weapons, increased the security threat faced by the Russian Federation and exacerbated the conflict. Contrary to the beliefs of those States, such acts only worsened the situation, including for their own populations. Similarly, the use of aggressive diplomatic tactics in the Fifth Committee would only undermine its technical work. The delegations in question should limit their focus to the matters before the Committee.

66. **Ms. Kinyungu** (Kenya) said that peacekeeping operations remained essential to the Organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security. The credibility of the United Nations depended largely on its ability to successfully fulfil its core mandates, including

those relating to peacekeeping. As a troop-contributing country, Kenya remained fully committed to peacekeeping. The Committee's deliberations should be aimed at providing peacekeepers with the appropriate tools to address new and complex realities on the ground, including emerging threats to global peace and security.

67. The proposed budget of \$6.029 billion for 2022/23 for the maintenance of 11 active peacekeeping missions was slightly higher than the current budget of \$5.915 billion for 12 active peacekeeping missions. She appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat and missions to ensure that budgeted resources were clearly linked to mandated activities. Peacekeeping operations needed to incorporate elements of peacebuilding to reinforce resilience, mitigate cycles of relapse and enhance the capacity of host countries' governance and security institutions. At the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on financing for peacebuilding, her delegation had underscored that the Assembly's engagement on that issue was an important signal of the value that it attributed to prevention and peacebuilding, of the limited resources allocated to those processes and of the consequent need to take urgent decisions on the matter.

68. Since 1960, Africa had hosted the greatest number of peacekeeping missions of any region. Despite widespread acknowledgement of the "financial cliff" resulting from the transition and drawdown of peacekeeping missions, there remained significant resistance to the provision of adequate funding for United Nations-mandated, African Union-led peace support operations. To move from a reactive to a proactive approach to conflict, the United Nations system must invest more in peacebuilding and development. The United Nations peacebuilding architecture should therefore be provided with predictable resources so that it could have a meaningful and sustained impact on all aspects of the peace continuum. Political support and adequate resources were critical to the success of peacekeeping operations; the Committee was responsible for approving such resources in a timely manner.

69. **Mr. Ruru** (Indonesia) paid tribute to United Nations peacekeepers worldwide, particularly against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, global supply chain disruptions and threats related to armed conflict. Indonesia was a long-standing contributor to peacekeeping operations; 2,800 Indonesian personnel, including 185 women, were currently serving in eight missions. As a major troop- and police-contributing country, Indonesia was committed to making peacekeeping more effective.

70. Despite the progress achieved in combating the pandemic, COVID-19 and its evolving variants remained a significant threat. In discussions related to peacekeeping, delegations should bear in mind that the pandemic had made the missions' work more challenging and posed a risk to peacekeepers' safety and security.

71. The resources allocated should be commensurate with mission mandates, which could not be fulfilled without adequate financial resources. A lack of resources would affect performance and jeopardize peacekeepers' safety and security.

72. The Secretariat must reimburse troop- and police-contributing countries in a timely fashion so that they could maintain their operational capabilities and their long-term contribution to peacekeeping operations. The rate of reimbursement should also be raised to take into account the increasing cost of deploying troops and equipment to the missions. Troop- and police-contributing countries should be better represented, including in leadership positions, at Headquarters and in the missions. Staff should be selected and appointed to leadership positions in the missions on the basis of merit, with due regard to their long-standing contribution. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/305, the Secretariat should end any monopoly on leadership positions in peacekeeping missions and make conscious efforts to diversify the leadership.

73. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed programme of work on the understanding that adjustments would be made as necessary during the course of the session.

74. *It was so decided.*

#### **Agenda item 150: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

*Cross-cutting issues (A/76/281 (Part II), A/76/662, A/76/676, A/76/697, A/76/702, A/76/757, A/76/774 and A/76/782)*

75. **Mr. Khare** (Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries (A/76/676), said that, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues (A/C.5/67/10), the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/261, had established a methodological

framework to inform its periodic consideration of the rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries through a quadrennial survey on the common and essential additional costs incurred by a sample of 10 troop- and police-contributing countries. After considering the results of the first such survey, the Assembly, in its resolution [68/281](#), had established a new standard rate of reimbursement, which it had again revised in its resolution [72/285](#), after reviewing the results of the second such survey.

76. The report ([A/76/676](#)) contained the results of the third and most recent survey, which reflected the costs incurred by a newly selected sample of 10 troop- and police-contributing countries, namely, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda and South Africa. He was grateful to those countries for their active engagement, which had highlighted the importance that they attached to the survey process and the reimbursement framework. The Department of Operational Support had provided the countries with a questionnaire in which it had requested data on the five cost categories established by the General Assembly in its resolution [67/261](#), specifically, allowances, personal kit and equipment, predeployment medical expenses, inland transportation and United Nations-specific predeployment training. After receiving preliminary responses to the questionnaire, the Secretariat had conducted follow-up visits to 9 of the 10 participating countries between October 2021 and December 2021. A support session for one country had been conducted virtually, in view of its COVID-19-related travel restrictions. To meet the comparability requirement of the methodology, Secretariat-led teams had worked with the participating countries in order to isolate specific common costs. In most cases, revised questionnaires had been submitted to reflect the clarifications provided during the visits.

77. The report ([A/76/676](#)) provided cost data weighted by the contribution of each participating country as a percentage of the sample population, in line with the approach taken in the two previous surveys. The weighted average across all five cost categories amounted to \$1,453.31 per person per month.

78. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the post-traumatic stress disorder framework for uniformed personnel ([A/76/662](#)), he said that the highest priority of the Department of Operational Support remained the safety and security of peacekeepers, including the provision of timely compensation to uniformed personnel that had been injured or had made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace, and to the families of such personnel. Beginning in 2020, the Department had, pursuant to General Assembly

resolutions [74/280](#) and [75/293](#), conducted a comprehensive study of PTSD in conjunction with subject-matter experts from across the Secretariat and external scientific experts, and in consultation with Member States. He thanked the project advisory board, which had consisted of representatives of 26 troop- and police-contributing countries, and of other participating Member States, for their advice and support.

79. On the basis of the study, the report ([A/76/662](#)) set out a proposal for a PTSD framework that would promote a sustainable and appropriate approach to the compensation of PTSD-related claims. There were currently 400 outstanding PTSD-related claims, most of which concerned closed peace operations; resources were therefore not readily available to compensate the claims. The proposed framework included sustainable solutions for PTSD, promoted the safety, security and well-being of peacekeepers, addressed ways to secure resources for the compensation of claims, and set out prevention and mitigation measures in order to reduce the incidence of PTSD in the future. The well-being of peacekeepers was the main concern of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He encouraged support for the PTSD framework, which was vital for current and future peacekeepers.

80. **Mr. Swanson** (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities on peace operations for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021 ([A/76/281 \(Part II\)](#)), said that the report contained an overview of OIOS activities pertaining to peace operations, including all peacekeeping, special political and peacebuilding missions and the Headquarters entities that directly supported them, such as the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support.

81. OIOS had issued 313 oversight reports relating to peace operations in 2021. The 74 internal audit and evaluation reports issued in 2021 had been published on the OIOS website. They included 294 recommendations, all of which had been accepted by programme managers. None of the recommendations had been classified as critical, a designation within the enterprise risk management system referring to recommendations which addressed risks that, because of their potential impact, required the immediate attention of management. A total of 252 recommendations had been closed following implementation, a 30 per cent increase compared with 2020. OIOS had also cooperated effectively with management and staff in entities

covered by its oversight activities, and had coordinated with the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit in order to enhance synergies and efficiencies in the discharge of the three bodies' mandates.

82. There had been no inappropriate limitations on the scope of work or independence of OIOS during the reporting period. OIOS aimed to provide recommendations that improved risk management, governance and the operations of entities that implemented and supported peace operations. In its workplan for 2021, the Office had given priority to the implementation of the Secretariat reforms, organizational culture, procurement and the supply chain, and missions in transition. It had also focused on strengthening the centralized, business-enabling functions that supported mandate implementation by peace operations – the second line of defence in the Secretariat's risk management and control system.

83. The strengthening of the enterprise risk management, delegation of authority and information management systems of the Secretariat and its entities in recent years had enabled the Internal Audit Division to focus more effectively on areas of higher residual risk and to improve compliance with policies and performance in order to facilitate mandate fulfilment. The Division had reported on results in such areas as the response to COVID-19, conduct and discipline, demand and source planning, warehouse management, liquidation planning, data management, management of troop and police personnel and equipment contributions, delegation of authority, gender, and environmental sustainability.

84. In 2021, as indicated in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/76/69), the Inspection and Evaluation Division had, for the first time, performed evaluations of 15 peace operations, including detailed assessments of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), MONUSCO, the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The results would guide the Division's work to support results-based management in peace operations.

85. In 2021, the average time taken by the Investigations Division to complete an investigation had been 12.8 months, compared with 10.6 months in 2020. However, at the end of 2021, the average age of open cases had been 8 months, the lowest average age for the

end-of-year caseload for the past few years (10 per cent lower than in 2019 and 13 per cent lower than in 2020). The Division would continue to give priority to older cases as much as possible, while strengthening its use of data in order to reduce investigation time.

86. Introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of political affairs in peacekeeping missions (A/76/697), he said that, in the evaluation, OIOS had assessed the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the political affairs components of peacekeeping missions, focusing in particular on two intermediate outcomes: the establishment of peace agreements and the achievement of political dialogue. The evaluation had covered the activities of the five peacekeeping missions with mandates relating to peace, reconciliation and political processes, specifically, MINUSCA, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), MONUSCO, UNMISS and United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), over the period 2017–2020.

87. In the evaluation, OIOS had concluded that the role of political affairs components was significant in the achievement of peace outcomes. Political Affairs Officers had a deep knowledge of the political landscapes of the countries concerned and maintained extensive networks with relevant stakeholders, enabling missions to create political space for engagement with critical peace partners. The political analyses produced by the political affairs components were generally timely and of good quality, and were often used by senior mission leadership. The peace agreements and political dialogue resulting from the work of the political affairs components had helped to reduce conflict and tensions in the countries concerned, and, in some instances, appeared to have reduced the level of fatalities.

88. OIOS had made three recommendations to the relevant peacekeeping missions. They concerned the need to develop mission-specific political strategies, to be clearly communicated to relevant stakeholders; to strengthen the utility of political analyses; and to enhance the assessment of and reporting on the performance of political affairs components. OIOS had also recommended that the Department of Peace Operations conduct a review of current mission units related to political affairs. All the recommendations had been accepted.

89. **Ms. Lopez** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for

protection from sexual exploitation and abuse ([A/76/702](#)), said that the report contained information on the measures taken, from 1 January to 31 December 2021, to strengthen the system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse, including progress in implementation of the zero-tolerance policy and the Secretary-General's enhanced strategy to improve the response to such abuse, as set out in his report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: a new approach ([A/71/818](#)), and addressed further in subsequent reports on the matter ([A/72/751](#), [A/73/744](#), [A/74/705](#) and [A/75/754](#)).

90. The current report ([A/76/702](#)) focused on progress made under the four areas of action set out in the strategy: giving priority to the rights and dignity of victims; ending impunity through strengthened reporting and investigation; engaging with Member States, civil society and external partners; and improving strategic communication to promote education and transparency. The report also contained information on efforts made in specific contexts to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse and to identify and mitigate the associated risks against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the report set out the initiatives taken by the High-level Steering Group on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and by other United Nations entities to promote further engagement and cohesion within the United Nations system, as well as engagement with Member States. As in previous years, supplementary information on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse relating to personnel of peacekeeping and special political missions, personnel and implementing partners of other United Nations entities, and non-United Nations international forces authorized by a Security Council mandate had been provided in a separate document, available on the United Nations website.

91. **Ms. Chiurazzi-Maxfield** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the post-traumatic stress disorder framework for uniformed personnel ([A/76/782](#)), said that the Advisory Committee recognized the service of uniformed personnel working in United Nations missions and reiterated the importance of the expeditious settlement of all death and disability claims, including PTSD-related claims. The proposed establishment of a reserve fund that would cover all death and disability claims, including PTSD-related claims, concerning closed peacekeeping missions was beyond the scope of the Advisory Committee's recommendations as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions [74/280](#) and [75/293](#). Moreover, the

Advisory Committee considered that the annual estimated liability for the compensation of PTSD-related claims, amounting to \$51 million, was not substantiated and greatly exceeded the level of compensation that had previously been paid for such claims and remained to be paid for pending claims. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended against the establishment of the reserve.

92. The Advisory Committee considered that other compensation mechanisms could have been presented in order to enable the General Assembly to consider the matter more fully. Reiterating its concern regarding the considerable number of outstanding PTSD-related claims and the need to address the related backlog as soon as possible, the Advisory Committee considered, in particular, that the consolidated net cash balances of closed peacekeeping missions with a net cash surplus could be used to settle all long-overdue payments to troop- and police-contributing countries, including existing PTSD-related claims concerning closed missions. It was of the view that the granting of spending authority against funds remaining in closed missions was a policy matter for the consideration of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee was of the view that authorization could be given to compensate new PTSD-related claims concerning closed peacekeeping missions either from the interest of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund or through the support account.

93. The Advisory Committee considered that separate arrangements would be required for the compensation of PTSD-related claims concerning closed special political missions. Such arrangements could include a pay-as-you-go approach or the use of the reserves provided for in appendix D of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and funded under the regular budget. The Advisory Committee was of the view that any decision to expand the use of those reserves was a policy decision within the purview of the General Assembly.

94. The Advisory Committee emphasized the importance of the principle of the equal treatment of Member States, including with respect to access to compensation for PTSD-related claims, and encouraged the Secretary-General to make every effort to facilitate the claims submission process within existing resources, including the positions dedicated to the processing of outstanding claims within the Department of Operational Support, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/280](#). Lastly, as part of a sustainable and appropriate approach to the management of PTSD among uniformed personnel, the Advisory Committee encouraged the Secretary-General

to pursue further consultations with relevant stakeholders in order to identify and maximize opportunities for prevention and mitigation within existing resources.

95. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries (A/76/757), she said that the related report of the Secretary-General (A/76/676) had been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/261, in which the Assembly had approved the conclusions and recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues, as summarized in its report (A/C.5/67/10). In particular, the Assembly had approved the recommendation to conduct a full review every four years, with data gathered from a newly selected sample of countries, once a new base rate had been approved.

96. The Secretary-General's report (A/76/676) contained the results of the quadrennial review of the common and essential additional costs incurred by troop- and police-contributing countries, using June 2021 as the base month, as reflected in table 2 of the report. The weighted average across all five cost categories, which reflected the proportionate size of the individual contributions of the sample countries, had amounted to \$1,453.31 per person per month, an increase of \$25.31 compared with the current rate of \$1,428 per person per month approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/285. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee had been informed that, based on the deployment levels as at 31 December 2021 and assuming that the approved rate had been paid in full to all uniformed personnel, the potential financial implications of an increase of \$1 in the current rate of reimbursement would amount to \$839,880 per year. Thus, the increase of \$25.31 per person per month would amount to an estimated overall increase of \$21,257,363 per year.

97. In addition to the five mandated cost categories, information on other costs incurred by the sample countries was listed in sections IV and V of the Secretary-General's report (A/76/676). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee had been informed that, as required by General Assembly 67/261, only the data on common and essential additional costs reported by participating troop- and police-contributing countries had been collated and aggregated by category in the Secretary-General's report. The weighted averages by cost category had been presented for those costs.

98. In his report (A/76/676), the Secretary-General had indicated that participating countries had noted having incurred costs associated with post-deployment medical examinations and procedures that were specific to service in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including COVID-19 testing, other tests, psychological examinations and counselling. That expenditure had not been included in the overall medical costs. Most participating countries had also reported costs incurred in administering COVID-19 vaccines to uniformed personnel prior to deployment in United Nations peacekeeping operations, in line with national vaccination mandates established in response to the pandemic. Those expenses had also not been included in the overall amounts. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the United Nations did not require pre- or post-deployment psychological screening. The Advisory Committee noted that any revisions to the current methodological framework for the quadrennial survey, as agreed in General Assembly resolution 67/261, remained under the exclusive purview of the Assembly; the cost categories included in the current survey were as established by the Assembly. The Advisory Committee was of the view that the results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police contributing countries constituted a policy matter to be decided by the General Assembly.

99. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/76/774), she said that the related report of the Secretary-General (A/76/702) contained no proposals that would entail additional budgetary implications. The Advisory Committee acknowledged the efforts being made to strengthen the United Nations system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse. It was of the view that introducing the Secretary-General's progress reports during the main part of the session of the General Assembly could further underscore the holistic, cross-pillar and cross-cutting nature of matters related to such abuse.

100. In his future progress reports, the Secretary-General should include a more comprehensive overview of efforts to ensure inter-agency coordination in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. To that end, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination, encourage all United Nations system entities to adopt a single system to verify the backgrounds of potential job candidates; take a leading role in the development of initiatives to support the

assessment of implementing partners by the Secretariat; and increase his efforts to provide a full account of the staff and financial resources dedicated to addressing sexual exploitation and abuse.

101. The Advisory Committee was concerned at the overall increase in the number of allegations, in particular those involving implementing partners, and recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to strengthen efforts to monitor, address and report on allegations involving implementing partners. The Advisory Committee also encouraged the Secretary-General to enhance his efforts to ensure the timely completion of investigations of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. One substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was too many, and the Advisory Committee remained committed to ensuring the implementation of the Organization's zero-tolerance policy and the provision of care for victims.

102. **Ms. Ijaz** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that peacekeeping missions remained one of the most effective multilateral tools for preventing the outbreak or recurrence of violence worldwide. However, those missions often operated under dangerous circumstances and in high-risk locations, and faced challenges including broad mandates, complex political and security environments, and threats directed at United Nations personnel, while transnational crime continued to jeopardize stability in some host countries. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, peacekeeping operations continued to evolve and find innovative ways to implement their mandates effectively. It was unfortunate that the General Assembly had been unable to adopt a resolution on cross-cutting issues since its seventieth session. The Group attached great importance to such a resolution and would make every effort to achieve consensus thereon at the current part of the resumed session.

103. The Group was firmly committed to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and called for greater efforts to ensure that the Organization did not remain silent or passive in response to reported incidents, and to protect and support victims through a victim-centred approach. The Group looked forward to examining the progress made in adopting a more unified, system-wide approach to sexual exploitation and abuse. It would also examine the efforts made to strengthen accountability for such abuse.

104. The Group noted the progress made in implementing the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System in missions not included in the System's initial roll-out in 2018 and looked forward to further updates in that regard. The

Group also welcomed the increased use of digital technology to improve the safety and security of mission personnel, mandate fulfilment and mission performance. Accurate information was essential to enhancing responses to the daily challenges faced by peacekeeping operations. The Group therefore welcomed the improvement in peacekeeping data standards, as it would help to strengthen analysis and reporting capabilities. Performance in peacekeeping operations was a collective endeavour involving Member States, the Secretariat and all components of missions, and any attempt to use performance assessment as a basis for making further arbitrary cuts to the peacekeeping budget could undermine mandate implementation in the future and even erode the progress already made.

105. The Group would seek further information on the ways in which specific programmes and initiatives and relevant aspects of senior managers' compacts would increase the representation of troop- and police-contributing countries, in particular developing countries, which had made immeasurable contributions to peacekeeping, in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/262](#) C. The Group also attached great importance to the provision of adequate health care to peacekeepers and acknowledged the efforts made to build the capacities of medical facilities dedicated to ensuring their health and safety. The Group also welcomed initiatives aimed at improving the safety and security of peacekeepers. During the first three years of its implementation, the Secretariat's action plan to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers had proven effective in decreasing fatalities caused by acts of violence. The Group attached great importance to the prevention of casualties and would consider peacekeeping proposals with that aim in mind.

106. The Group would carefully review the performance of peacekeeping budgets for 2020/21 and the proposed peacekeeping budgets for 2022/23, bearing in mind that mandates must be adequately funded. Mandates must be fulfilled responsibly, through financial discipline, in accordance with the relevant resolutions. The only way to address the perennially difficult financial situation of peacekeeping operations was for Member States to pay their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

107. **Mr. Ammann** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that he commended United Nations peacekeeping personnel for their hard work and dedication, and paid tribute to those who had lost their lives in the pursuit of peace. Prevention was the most

effective and least costly way of addressing conflicts. Ensuring that peace was sustainable was as important as achieving it in the first place. Liechtenstein and Switzerland continued to favour the use of a systemic approach to transitions. Peacekeeping missions should work closely with other United Nations system entities, the international community, national authorities and other national stakeholders, including civil society, in order to develop transition strategies that helped to sustain peace and prevent the recurrence of conflict.

108. Switzerland and Liechtenstein welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/76/702) and stressed the importance of his zero-tolerance policy. Given the increase in the number of allegations in field missions, sexual exploitation and abuse must remain a priority, and all the necessary steps should be taken to combat such abuse. The two delegations welcomed the strengthening of the Organization's victim-centred approach and the effectiveness of the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate in responding to victims' needs. The Secretary-General must continue to improve the Organization's response to sexual exploitation and abuse, and to promote synergies and harmonization as part of a systemic approach to combating such acts.

109. Switzerland and Liechtenstein welcomed the delegation of authority to peacekeeping operations through the decentralization of administrative authority to managers in the field. In environments in which peacekeepers were required to adapt quickly to local circumstances in order to address challenges, a strong system of delegation of authority was essential to improve the effectiveness of the Organization's work. He therefore called for continued investment in the development and maintenance of the relevant governance capacities of management teams.

110. OIOS played an essential role in ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of peace operations. Liechtenstein and Switzerland welcomed the findings set out in the OIOS reports relating to peace operations and encouraged the Secretary-General to implement the Office's recommendations in a timely manner in order to foster accountability.

111. *Mr. Elmahs (Egypt), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

112. **Mr. Eboa Ebongue** (Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the overall budget for peacekeeping operations must be commensurate with their mandates, a position that was consistent with the Group's long-standing belief in the importance of quick-impact projects and programmatic activities for successful mandate implementation.

Quick-impact projects built confidence in missions and contributed to force protection by generating support for military and police components. The lack of support for such projects was a matter of concern for missions and for troop- and police-contributing countries.

113. The Group would carefully consider the performance and implementation of peacekeeping budgets, taking into account the 2020/21 budget period, and the requirements for the 2022/23 budget period. It noted the continued reductions in the overall resources allocated to peacekeeping missions. Despite the general improvement in COVID-19 infection levels and the successful management of the virus within missions, the pandemic remained a threat to the life, health and safety of United Nations personnel and the populations of host countries. Climate change and environmental hazards had also increased the complexity of peacekeeping. The Committee should ensure that missions had the financial resources required to address such challenges.

114. Although the remote working conditions that had arisen from the pandemic had contributed to a decrease in the number of reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, the Group expected that number to increase as a result of the gradual resumption of in-person working methods. An early-warning mechanism and collective vigilance were necessary in order to prevent all forms of abuse, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and the Group fully supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. It was also necessary to raise awareness of racial discrimination, which seemed to be gaining ground in the Organization. The Group remained committed to the elimination of racism and all forms of discrimination in the Organization and looked forward to discussing the strategic action plan of the Task Force on Addressing Racism and Promoting Dignity for All.

115. The Group paid tribute to uniformed personnel serving in United Nations missions and recognized the challenging circumstances under which they operated, which could lead to death and disability, including PTSD. The Group would carefully consider the report of the Secretary-General on the post-traumatic stress disorder framework for uniformed personnel (A/76/662). The Group also thanked Member States that contributed troops and police to the service of the United Nations, in particular those that had participated in the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries. The Group looked forward to discussing the matter in informal consultations.

116. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation shared many of the concerns expressed by

other delegations and by Secretariat representatives at the current meeting and would work to resolve them. There seemed to be a contradiction in the Secretary-General's position on the sex industry. Sexual exploitation was unacceptable; it occurred in nearly all countries, including those that hosted peacekeeping missions, and must be combated. The Russian Federation was nevertheless surprised that the Secretary-General had urged the decriminalization of the sex industry, including in his report on addressing inequalities and getting back on track to end AIDS by 2030 (A/75/836), in which he had recommended the removal of punitive and discriminatory laws, policies and practices that criminalized sex work. Although that report covered a number of issues that fell outside the Committee's purview, his delegation requested that the Committee secretariat explain, in writing, the apparent incompatibility between the Secretary-General's recommendation concerning the decriminalization of the sex industry and his position on combating sexual exploitation and abuse, a position that was shared by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee.

117. **Mr. Velázquez Castillo** (Mexico) said that, while recognizing the Secretary-General's efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, Mexico was concerned by the increasing number of reported cases, a trend that must be reversed without delay through the full implementation of the Secretary-General's policy to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse throughout the United Nations system. Mexico gave due priority to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and would promote the strict implementation of the zero-tolerance policy throughout the United Nations, including peace operations and field missions. One substantiated case of such abuse was too many; the increase in the number of cases and the fact that the majority of cases concerned a small number of peace operations and missions were therefore unacceptable.

118. Mexico supported the implementation of a sound strategy aimed at diligently protecting the rights of victims, combating impunity and promoting the involvement of external partners and civil society. The Organization must increase its efforts to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by punishing perpetrators effectively and improving coordination and communication within the Secretariat and between the Secretariat and the agencies, funds and programmes, in order to avoid duplication and streamline spending. It was also necessary to establish effective and agile information-sharing methods and to address the conditions that increased the risk of exposure of vulnerable people to sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly in the field. He hoped that the Committee

would, at the current part of the resumed session, adopt a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues, as that would enable it to update the policy guidelines for the Secretariat and peacekeeping operations themselves.

**Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus** (A/76/549, A/76/696 and A/76/760/Add.11)

**Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo** (A/76/525, A/76/674 and A/76/760/Add.3)

**Agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East**

(a) **United Nations Disengagement Observer Force** (A/76/547, A/76/679 and A/76/760/Add.2)

(b) **United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon** (A/76/562, A/76/700 and A/76/760/Add.1)

**Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti** (A/76/747 and A/76/801)

**Agenda item 165: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur** (continued) (A/76/688 and A/76/807)

119. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Controller), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/549) and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/696) for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, said that the proposed budget of \$54.5 million for UNFICYP for the 2022/23 period represented an increase of 1.3 per cent, or \$0.7 million, compared with the approved budget for 2021/22. The proposed budget reflected increased requirements for military and police personnel, attributable primarily to higher mission subsistence allowance amounts based on the revised rates effective 1 January 2022. UNFICYP would continue to support liaison and engagement with the concerned parties across all components, including intercommunal contacts and confidence-building measures in order to maintain stability and calm, thereby encouraging progress towards a potential settlement agreement.

120. Introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/525) and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/674) for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, he said that the proposed budget of \$41.9 million for UNMIK for the

2022/23 period represented an increase of 1.6 per cent, or \$0.6 million, compared with the approved budget of \$41.3 million for 2021/22. The proposed budget reflected increased requirements for civilian personnel, attributable primarily to higher cost parameters resulting from the revised base salary scale and the updated post adjustment multiplier for all categories of international personnel; the application of a higher step level for national General Service staff and National Professional Officers; and the proposed reduction of the vacancy rate for the United Nations Volunteers from 11 per cent, as approved for the 2021/22 period, to 8 per cent. UNMIK would continue to strengthen and consolidate peace, security, the rule of law and stability in Kosovo and the region. In 2022/23, the Mission would continue to implement activities related to its mandate, with a focus on inter-community trust-building, human rights and the rule of law.

121. Introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 ([A/76/547](#)) and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 ([A/76/679](#)) for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, he said that the proposed budget of \$64.9 million for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the 2022/23 period reflected an increase of 6.0 per cent, or \$3.7 million, compared with the approved budget for 2021/22. The increased requirements were primarily attributable to the planned deployment of an additional 46 military contingent personnel, within the authorized troop ceiling, following the finalization of the memorandums of understanding with troop-contributing countries signed in 2021. During the 2022/23 period, UNDOF would focus on maintaining its operations and conducting its mandated observation and patrolling activities, as conditions permitted.

122. Introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 ([A/76/562](#)) and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 ([A/76/700](#)) for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, he said that the proposed budget of \$507.2 million for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the 2022/23 period represented an increase of \$30.4 million compared with the approved budget for 2021/22. The proposed budget reflected increased requirements for military and police personnel in the amount of \$8.4 million. That increase was primarily attributable to higher costs for major contingent-owned equipment in connection with the restructuring of four key mechanized battalions and with the revised statements of unit requirements for troop-

contributing countries approved in September 2021, following the Secretary-General's assessment of the Force in 2020. The proposed budget also reflected increased requirements for civilian personnel in the amount of \$17.4 million, attributable to higher salary costs owing to the application of the revised salary scale, and for operational costs, in order to rehabilitate and carry out major repairs to UNIFIL facilities, and to continue to replace assets that had reached the end of their useful economic lives.

123. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti ([A/76/747](#)), he said that the report contained details on the final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) as at 30 June 2020, carried out in accordance with regulation 5.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules, as well as on the assets disposed of under rule 105.23 of the Financial Regulations and Rules. The Mission's assets, with a total capitalized value of \$123,904,655, had been disposed of as at 30 June 2020.

124. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 ([A/76/688](#)), he said that the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) had incurred \$477.3 million in expenditure during the reporting period, representing a resource utilization rate of 98.5 per cent, compared with \$509.3 million in expenditure and a resource utilization rate of 99.0 per cent for the 2019/20 period. The budget performance for the 2020/21 period reflected reduced requirements for operational costs owing primarily to lower-than-budgeted requirements under other services, supplies and equipment resulting from the decrease in the number of assets transferred from UNAMID, the cancellation of programmatic activities and lower demand for individual contractors, as well as for services under communications and information technology and under facilities and infrastructure owing to the closure of UNAMID team sites. The budget performance also reflected reduced requirements attributable to lower-than-budgeted payments due to international staff members at the time of their separation from service, as a result of the occurrence of that separation earlier than estimated in the approved budget.

125. **Ms. Chiurazzi-Maxfield** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and on the proposed

budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (A/76/760/Add.1), said that, in its resolution 74/292, the General Assembly had appropriated \$480,649,100 for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the 2020/21 period, and expenditure for the period had totalled \$468,733,300, representing a budget implementation rate of 97.5 per cent. The proposed budget for 2022/23 was \$507,223,400, comprising \$339,406,100 under military and police personnel, \$116,612,500 under civilian personnel and \$51,204,800 under operational costs. The overall budget for 2022/23 represented an increase of 6.4 per cent, or \$30,381,400, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. The Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed establishment of one post of Senior Coordination Officer (P-5) in the Office of the Principal Coordinator and of one temporary position of Programme Management Officer (P-4). It nevertheless recommended approval of the proposed establishment of one temporary position of Programme Management Officer (P-3). The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the proposed resources for 2022/23 be reduced by \$2,802,900, from \$507,223,400 to \$504,420,500, including adjustments under operational costs.

126. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (A/76/760/Add.11), she said that, in its resolution 74/285, the General Assembly had appropriated \$51,750,100 for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the 2020/21 period, and expenditure for the period had totalled \$51,726,300, representing a budget implementation rate of 100.0 per cent. The proposal budget for 2022/23 was \$54,507,700, comprising \$23,948,700 under military and police personnel, \$16,368,400 under civilian personnel and \$14,190,600 under operational costs. The overall budget for 2022/23 represented an increase of \$709,700, or 1.3 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. In its resolution 75/299, the General Assembly had endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, as set out in its report on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (A/75/822/Add.2), not to establish the posts of Mission Planning Officer (P-4) and Environmental Affairs Officer (P-3) and to discontinue the position of Human Resources Officer (P-3) in the 2021/22 period. In his report on the proposed budget for UNFICYP for 2022/23 (A/76/696), the Secretary-General had

resubmitted largely the same proposals, without reference to General Assembly resolution 75/299 and without significant changes on the ground that might merit the resubmission of the proposals. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended against the establishment of the three posts in the 2022/23 period. Consequently, it recommended that the proposed resources for 2022/23 be reduced by \$489,100, from \$54,507,700 to \$54,018,600, including adjustments under operational costs.

127. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (A/76/760/Add.3), she said that, in its resolution 74/288, the General Assembly had appropriated \$39,827,300 for the maintenance of UNMIK for the 2020/21 period, and expenditure for the period had totalled \$39,682,800, representing a budget implementation rate of 99.6 per cent. The proposed budget for 2022/23 was \$41,947,300, comprising \$734,800 under military and police personnel, \$33,275,000 under civilian personnel and \$7,937,500 under operational costs. The overall budget for 2022/23 represented an increase of 1.6 per cent, or \$648,800, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22.

128. In volume II of its reports to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session (A/76/5 (Vol. II)), the Board of Auditors had noted the liquidity situation and related financial risks of the Mission. The Advisory Committee was increasingly concerned about the continuing deterioration of the cash position of UNMIK, as the outstanding contributions of \$45.1 million for the Mission as at February 2022 had been higher than the appropriation of \$41.3 million approved for the 2021/22 period. In its resolution 75/301, the General Assembly had decided not to reassign and convert the post of Associate Legal Officer (P-2) in the Justice and Corrections Section of the Office of Rule of Law to an Associate Programme Management Officer (National Professional Officer) post. In his report on the proposed budget for UNMIK for 2022/23 (A/76/674), the Secretary-General had resubmitted the same proposal, without reference to General Assembly resolution 75/301. The Advisory Committee considered that, as a matter of principle, the decisions of the General Assembly should be implemented. The Advisory Committee was not fully convinced by the information provided in relation to the resubmission of the proposal for the reassignment and conversion of the P-2 post and trusted that further clarification and justifications would be provided.

129. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (A/76/760/Add.2), she said that, in its resolution 74/291, the General Assembly had appropriated \$63,343,200 for the maintenance of UNDOF for the 2020/21 period, and expenditure for the period had totalled \$60,282,300, representing a budget implementation rate of 95.2 per cent. The proposed budget for 2022/23 was \$64,868,800, comprising \$38,970,300 under military and police personnel, \$15,406,900 under civilian personnel and \$10,491,600 under operational costs. The overall budget for 2022/23 represented an increase of 6.0 per cent, or \$3,650,600, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. At present, the Advisory Committee recommended against the proposed conversion of one general temporary assistance position of Engineering Officer to an international post (P-3), in view of the near-completion of works on the Bravo side of the area of separation, the reduction in the related workload and the proposed reassignment to the Engineering Section of one national post of Facilities Management Assistant, which would result in a total of 22 staff for the Section in 2022/23. The Advisory Committee thus recommended that the proposed resources for 2022/23 be reduced by \$199,300, from \$64,868,800 to \$64,669,500, including adjustments under operational costs.

130. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (A/76/801), she said that, in his related report (A/76/747), the Secretary-General had provided information on the final disposition of all assets, including those that had been given as gifts, transferred, disposed of locally and written off. The Advisory Committee reiterated the importance of documenting, updating and sharing lessons learned and best practices arising from recent dispositions of assets and trusted that the Secretary-General would update and apply the lessons learned from the disposition of the assets of MINUJUSTH. The Advisory Committee also trusted that, in order to minimize losses to the Organization, the Secretary-General would ensure the implementation of the Board of Auditors' recommendation, as set out in its report (A/76/5 (Vol. II)), on the need for the Administration to establish a centralized analysing and enforcing function to perform cross-cutting analyses of the property of missions and services centres, plant and equipment and inventory holdings, in order to achieve economies of scale; to identify potential surplus holdings and initiate corrective action; to ensure the continuing management

of asset disposal; and to eliminate disadvantages for missions and services centres, such as having to bear transport costs when sharing surplus assets. Subject to the observations and recommendations set out in its report (A/76/801), the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/76/747).

131. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/807), she said that, as indicated in the related report of the Secretary-General (A/76/688), the appropriation for UNAMID for the reporting period had amounted to \$484,687,100. In his report on the budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/75/597), the Secretary-General had set out the proposed budget for UNAMID for the reporting period, which had amounted to \$474,041,600 gross (\$458,822,800 net). As recommended by the Advisory Committee in its related report (A/75/633), the General Assembly, in its resolution 75/251 A, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in an amount not exceeding \$198,779,900 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2021, taking into account the amount of \$240,182,900 previously authorized by the General Assembly for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2020 in its resolution 74/261 C.

132. In response to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2559 (2020), in which the Council had decided to terminate the mandate of UNAMID as at 31 December 2020, the Secretary-General, in his note A/75/800, had requested the General Assembly to authorize him to enter into commitments with assessment in the total amount of \$46,724,300 gross (\$39,917,600 net) for the responsible drawdown of UNAMID for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2021. As recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report on the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2021 (A/75/839), the General Assembly, in its resolution 75/251 B, had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in an amount not exceeding \$45,724,300 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2021, taking into account the amount of \$240,182,900 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2020 and the amount of \$198,779,900 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2021 previously authorized by the Assembly for the Operation in its resolutions 74/261 C and 75/251 A.

133. During the 2020/21 period, UNAMID had incurred \$477.3 million in expenditure, representing a

resource utilization rate of 98.5 per cent, compared with \$509.3 million in expenditure and a resource utilization rate of 99.0 per cent during the 2019/20 period. The unencumbered balance of \$7.3 million reflected the effect of reduced requirements of \$4.9 million for operational costs, resulting primarily from lower-than-budgeted requirements under other services, supplies and equipment owing to the decrease in the number of assets transferred from UNAMID and the cancellation of programmatic activities, and of reduced requirements of \$2.3 million under civilian personnel, primarily attributable to lower-than-budgeted payments due to international staff members at the time of their separation from service, as a result of the occurrence of that separation earlier than estimated in the approved budget.

134. Upon request, the Advisory Committee had been provided with information regarding the financial position of UNAMID as at 31 March 2022. The Advisory Committee trusted that updated information on the financial position, including the outstanding contributions of Member States to UNAMID, would be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the Advisory Committee's report (A/76/807). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee had also been informed that the outstanding contributions to UNAMID had been \$134.2 million as at 30 June 2019, \$209.2 million as at 30 June 2020 and \$179.6 million as at 30 June 2021. The Advisory Committee noted the level of outstanding contributions of \$148 million as at 31 March 2022 and the negative trend of high levels of outstanding contributions in previous cycles. The Advisory Committee recalled the General Assembly's repeated calls for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions.

135. With regard to staffing, the Advisory Committee had been provided with information on the incumbency status of UNAMID, the management evaluation cases filed by separated staff and the criteria for the selection of the liquidation team. The Advisory Committee trusted that updated information on the incumbency status and on the status of pending management evaluation cases would be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the Advisory Committee's report (A/76/807). Any criteria for the selection of liquidation teams should be objective and transparent and should relate to the experience and competencies required for each function.

136. The Advisory Committee noted the lessons learned from the liquidation of UNAMID and trusted that they would be incorporated into guidance documents and shared with future downsizing missions, as appropriate.

The Advisory Committee also trusted that the key lessons learned from coordination with the United Nations country team and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) during the transition phase, as well as the approved recommendations of the oversight bodies, would be taken into consideration in the planning of the transition and closure of missions, in order to improve coordination with and transfer residual activities, including programmatic activities, to the United Nations country team, rather than allocating responsibility for their continued implementation to missions.

137. Taking into account the history of the Operation's financial position, the level of the cash shortfall (\$52,180,300) and the uncertainty of the timely payment of outstanding contributions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly, on an exceptional basis, take note of the total amount of \$18,953,000, comprising the unencumbered balance of \$7.3 million for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and other revenue for the period ended 30 June 2021 amounting to \$11.6 million from investment revenue (\$533,000), other miscellaneous revenue (\$2 million) and the cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$9 million), and therefore defer, until the time of the General Assembly's consideration of the final performance report for UNAMID, a decision on the treatment of that total amount.

138. **Mr. Eboa Ebongue** (Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group acknowledged the invaluable work of the Organization, and peacekeeping operations in particular, in attaining and maintaining international peace and security. The Group was also grateful to civilian and uniformed personnel working at Headquarters and in the field, to host countries and to troop- and police-contributing countries. The overall budget for peacekeeping operations must be commensurate with their mandates. Member States must fulfil their financial obligations on time, in full and without conditions as a matter of priority. Although the management of the cash balances of all active peacekeeping operations as a pool on a trial basis for three budget periods, starting in 2019, had proven useful, particularly in enabling the settlement of payments to troop- and police-contributing countries, it could not be considered as an alternative to Member States' complying with their financial obligations.

139. For the 2022/23 period, the overall proposed budget for all peacekeeping components, including the 11 active peacekeeping missions, was \$6,512,000,000, representing an increase of \$134.5 million compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. The increase in the

proposed budget for 2022/23 represented a departure from the trend for reducing the resources allocated to peacekeeping operations in previous years, despite the challenging situations they faced. The overall budget implementation rate had been 96.9 per cent for the 2020/21 period, compared with 98.5 per cent for the 2019/20 period. Despite the reasonableness of those figures, close scrutiny of the expenditure classes revealed that resources could be allocated more appropriately. For example, under air operations and official travel, the level of budgeted resources often exceeded expenditure, while under national staff, facilities and infrastructure and medical, the level of such resources was often inadequate to cover expenditure. Transparent engagement would be crucial to ensure that budgetary allocations were aligned with the needs of peacekeeping operations, and the Group would seek clarity concerning the overexpenditure recorded under Umoja maintenance and support costs. While the Secretariat must be granted flexibility, determining the level of resources under each budget class fell within the Committee's purview. The Group therefore trusted that the Secretariat would not, as a matter of course, determine overall budgetary allocations without guidance or reduce such allocations without specifying the mission components affected.

140. During its field visit conducted in April 2022, the Committee had learned about the progress made and challenges faced by missions, particularly with regard to improving the safety and security of personnel and ensuring the adequacy of facilities and infrastructure, including accommodation, logistical support and medical facilities. That knowledge would enable it to carefully consider the proposed peacekeeping budget in order to ensure that relevant challenges and priorities were addressed.

141. It was necessary to take a field-based approach to the financing of peacekeeping missions, given the complex environments in which they operated. The Group welcomed stronger cooperation and coordination among development, humanitarian and peacebuilding actors under the triple-nexus approach. While acknowledging the progress made in the implementation of the multi-year environmental strategy to reduce the footprint of peacekeeping operations, the Group was concerned about the frequent use of generators and the lower-than-expected investment in environmentally friendly initiatives, such as the development of solar panels and wind turbines. During informal consultations, the Group would seek further information concerning the lack of engagement of some missions in that regard. It would also seek to further information on the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance the

implementation of the strategy in accordance with its five pillars and with agreed rules and regulations.

142. Greater resources should be allocated to quick-impact projects and programmatic activities, which were essential to successful mandate implementation. Peace could not be achieved in environments in which hope had been eroded by poverty and the struggle for survival. A conducive working environment, including decent accommodation and catering for civilian and military personnel, was critical to mandate fulfilment. The accommodation of personnel in improvised tents should be avoided in favour of more deliberate and durable construction, in order to ensure the sustainability of the assets handed over to local authorities following the departure of missions, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules. It was also important to fill all vacant posts, in particular local posts and long-vacant posts.

143. The Group was concerned about the failure to include, in the proposed budgets for 2022/23, proposals to increase the nationalization of posts, as previously recommended by the General Assembly. Local procurement and the use of local knowledge and expertise were long-standing priorities of the Group. The Secretary-General should, as a matter of policy, ensure the utilization of local materials and contractors in construction projects and peacekeeping missions. It was regrettable that, even in the case of products in which local vendors had a comparative advantage, their involvement in procurement processes was minimal, a situation that left them with no clear strategy to achieve full and equitable participation. The Group would request an update on the specific steps taken by the Secretary-General in that regard.

144. Special representatives of the Secretary-General and heads of mission played a critical role in creating a political environment conducive to the achievement of a definitive solution to crises in host countries. All parties to conflicts and other stakeholders, including youth and women, must participate in building long-standing peace, and peacekeeping missions must be provided with adequate resources to fulfil their mandates. The Group would not support any approach to peacekeeping budgets that involved prejudging any peacekeeping mandate, and would pursue the mission-by-mission approach that had been reinstated at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

145. **Mr. Alshahin** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that said UNDOF had been established in accordance with Security Council resolution [350 \(1974\)](#), in order to ensure separation between the Syrian forces and the occupying Israeli forces in the occupied Syrian Golan.

The occupation of the region remained ongoing, in blatant violation of United Nations resolutions calling for a full withdrawal to the line of 4 June 1967. Responsibility for the financing of UNDOF must therefore be borne by the occupying Power, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

146. The Syrian Arab Republic had fully complied with the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces since its conclusion. Israel, however, had blatantly violated the Agreement on a number of occasions, breaching the ceasefire line established under the Agreement. Those violations must be halted and the Israeli authorities must be held accountable.

147. His delegation welcomed the progress achieved by UNDOF in 2020 and 2021, as set out in reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/547) and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/679) for UNDOF. However, in the sections of those reports containing references to violations of the Disengagement Agreement, no distinction had been made between the occupying Power, which had committed those violations, and the State that had been the victim of the violations. He questioned why Israel had not been identified as the aggressor.

148. With regard to the references to cooperation between UNDOF and other missions in the region, as set out in the Secretary-General's reports, it should be noted that, unlike other missions active in the Syrian Arab Republic, UNDOF was focused exclusively on military objectives and therefore had no connection to the domestic affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic. His delegation would also seek further clarification on the proposed conversion of one general temporary assistance position of Engineering Officer to an international post (P-3), in the light of the Advisory Committee's recommendation not to approve that proposal.

149. The Syrian Arab Republic continued to respect the Disengagement Agreement as a temporary measure, pending the implementation of the Security Council resolutions stipulating that the Golan was an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic. His delegation demanded the withdrawal of Israel to the 4 June 1967 line. The Syrian Arab Republic appreciated the noble mission of UNDOF and paid tribute to troop- and police-contributing countries.

150. **The Chair** said that, because of the late hour, the interpreters would be dismissed, and the discussion would continue in English.

151. **Ms. Plakalovic** (Serbia) said that her delegation, as a matter of principle, was committed to ensuring respect for legally binding international documents, in particular the resolutions of the Security Council, the highest-ranking international body focused on peace, stability and security. Specifically, Serbia attached great importance to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which constituted an agreed legal framework for ensuring peace and stability in Kosovo and Metohija. In that resolution, the Security Council had established the mandate of UNMIK, setting out the Mission's activities concerning the administrative management of the province, had guaranteed the territorial integrity of Serbia and its sovereignty over Kosovo and Metohija as part of its territory, and had ensured the status-neutrality of the international presence in the province. The scope of work and composition of UNMIK should therefore remain undiminished so that it could fulfil its objectives.

152. In his reports on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/525) and on the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 (A/76/674) for UNMIK, the Secretary-General had described the unstable security situation in the province, caused by the irresponsible behaviour and discriminatory acts of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina, and their policy of impunity for crimes against non-Albanians. Members of the Serbian ethnic community could not exercise their human rights in accordance with United Nations standards, facing ethnically motivated incidents, hate speech, intimidation, violations of their right to a fair trial, threats to their enjoyment of their right to freedom of movement and their religious rights, and the desecration of their churches and cemeteries. Consequently, of the more than 200,000 internally displaced persons living in Serbia since the establishment of UNMIK, less than 2 per cent had permanently returned to Kosovo and Metohija, the lowest rate of return of internally displaced persons ever recorded. The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina appeared indifferent to their return, having taken no specific steps in that regard.

153. UNMIK must maintain its strong engagement and its mandate must remain unchanged, given that it had not yet fulfilled some of its main tasks, in particular ensuring the sustainable return of internally displaced persons and protecting the non-Albanian population and Serbian religious and cultural heritage in Kosovo and Metohija. Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija viewed UNMIK and the Kosovo Force as protectors that would help them to one day exercise their rights to freedom of movement and property, and to

enjoy a peaceful life. UNMIK was also entrusted with ensuring peaceful coexistence between Albanians and non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija. The Mission must therefore be provided with adequate personnel and financial resources. Given the complex political and security situation in the province, budget increases should be considered with a view to enhancing programmatic activities and confidence-building projects designed to strengthen the rule of law, human rights and reconciliation among communities. The United Nations, the Security Council and UNMIK must continue to consistently fulfil their goals in the province.

154. Serbia shared the concern, expressed by the Advisory Committee in its report on UNMIK (A/76/760/Add.3), about the continuing deterioration of the Mission's cash position, and hoped that Member States that had not yet done so would pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Serbia also trusted that all vacancies in UNMIK would be filled as soon as possible. Moreover, Serbia shared the concern, expressed by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/76/760/Add.3), regarding the Secretary-General's proposal to reassign and convert the post of Associate Legal Officer in the Justice and Corrections Section of the Office of Rule of Law to an Associate Programme Management Officer post, given that the same proposal had been rejected by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. As it was of the view that General Assembly decisions should be implemented, Serbia would not support the proposal.

*The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.*