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Agenda item 158

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

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Laurens Thomas **den Hartog** (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 September 2023, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 35th and 40th meetings, on 6 May and 21 June 2024. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.¹

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 ([A/78/590](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 ([A/78/723](#));

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/78/744/Add.12](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.50](#)

4. At its 40th meeting, on 21 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western

¹ [A/C.5/78/SR.35](#) and [A/C.5/78/SR.40](#).



Sahara” ([A/C.5/78/L.50](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Poland.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/78/L.50](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

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

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

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Recalling Security Council resolution [690 \(1991\)](#) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution [2703 \(2023\)](#) of 30 October 2023, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 October 2024,

Recalling also its resolution [45/266](#) of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution [77/314](#) of 30 June 2023,

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

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

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

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#) of 22 June 2005, [60/266](#) of 30 June 2006, [61/276](#) of 29 June 2007, [64/269](#) of 24 June 2010, [65/289](#) of 30 June 2011, [66/264](#) of 21 June 2012, [69/307](#) of 25 June 2015, [70/286](#) of 17 June 2016 and [76/274](#) of 29 June 2022, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2024, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 49.8 million United States dollars, representing some 3.1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 116 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

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

¹ [A/78/590](#) and [A/78/723](#).

² [A/78/744/Add.12](#).

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

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

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

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

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

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#), [60/266](#), [61/276](#), [64/269](#), [65/289](#), [66/264](#), [69/307](#), [70/286](#) and [76/274](#);

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

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023;³

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

12. *Decides* to appropriate to the special account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 75,349,100 dollars for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, inclusive of 68,791,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 4,998,800 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, 872,500 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and 686,700 dollars for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda;

Financing of the appropriation for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

13. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 25,116,400 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2024 in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution [76/239](#) of 24 December 2021, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2024, as set out in its resolution [76/238](#) of 24 December 2021;

14. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution [973 \(X\)](#) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 13 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,139,100 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 949,700 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 135,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 26,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 27,100

³ [A/78/590](#).

dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

15. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 12,558,200 dollars for the period from 1 November to 31 December 2024, at a monthly rate of 6,279,100 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 76/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2024, as set out in its resolution 76/238, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

16. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 569,500 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 474,800 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 67,900 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 13,300 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 13,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

17. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 37,674,500 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2025, at a monthly rate of 6,279,100 dollars, in accordance with the scale of assessments for 2025 and the updated levels,⁴ subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

18. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,708,700 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,424,500 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 203,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 39,800 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 40,600 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

19. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 13, 15 and 17 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 3,657,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2023, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 76/239, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2023, as set out in its resolution 76/238;

20. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 3,657,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2023, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 19 above;

21. *Further decides* that the decrease of 150,700 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2023 shall be set off against the credits in the amount of 3,657,200 dollars referred to in paragraphs 19 and 20 above;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under

⁴ To be adopted by the General Assembly.

the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution [1502 \(2003\)](#) of 26 August 2003;

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

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