



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
4 June 2014

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 40th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 13 May 2014, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Taalas (Finland)
Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Ruiz Massieu

Contents

Agenda item 147: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Cross-cutting issues

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

Agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued)

Thematic cluster III: United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (continued)

Organization of work

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).

14-53550 (E)



Please recycle



The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 147: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Cross-cutting issues (A/68/337 (Part II), A/68/637, A/68/637/Corr.1, A/68/731, A/68/756, A/68/782, A/68/787, A/68/830 and A/68/867; A/C.5/68/22)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Deputy Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 and budget for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/68/731), said that the resources proposed for peacekeeping operations for 2014/15, at \$7.4 billion, represented a reduction of 5.1 per cent compared to the approved resources for 2013/14 of \$7.8 billion. That figure, however, reflected the commitment authority covering only six months proposed for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), given the uncertainty of the situation of the Mission, and did not include the requirements for the newly established United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). With the resources proposed for MINUSCA for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014, the proposed resources would be close to \$7.7 billion.

2. Excluding the impact of the financing for UNMISS, the reduction in requirements was mainly attributable to a reduction in the military and police components of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID); the absence of the provision for the supplemental payment to troop- and formed police-contributing countries approved by the General Assembly for the 2013/14 period; and the reconfiguration of the aircraft fleets of a number of missions. In addition, the budget reflected an overall net reduction of 895 civilian personnel posts and positions in nine peacekeeping missions, pursuant to civilian staffing reviews and reductions in military and civilian personnel components.

3. The overall lower requirements were partly offset by additional resources proposed mainly for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), resulting from the completion of full capacity of the Mission, and for the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA), resulting from the increase in the authorized strength of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) decided by the Security Council.

4. **Mr. Donoghue** (Chair of the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment), introducing the report of the 2014 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment (A/C.5/68/22), said that, following analysis of cost data from 51 Member States, the Working Group had made recommendations in such areas as rotation of equipment and medical support that would result in additional resource requirements of \$20.59 million in 2014/15. Overall, the recommendations would improve the structure of the contingent-owned equipment system and provide more transparent and enhanced verification tools.

5. The report heralded a policy breakthrough in terms of acceptance by the United Nations of responsibility to assist troop-contributing countries in replacing, or rotating, ageing contingent-owned equipment — one that would greatly assist force protection measures for peacekeepers on the ground. Of equal significance was the inclusion of a basic gynaecological module to the equipment list of level II medical facilities, as that would guarantee that all female staff deployed in peacekeeping missions were provided with the same basic gynaecological medical care. Another important factor was the agreement that contingents must endeavour to meet United Nations environmental and waste management standards.

6. **The Chair** drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/68/830).

7. **Mr. Banbury** (Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support), introducing the fourth annual progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/68/637 and A/68/637/Corr.1), said that over the past year the Security Council had considered proposals for the deployment of 37,000 additional troops and police, with the establishment of

new missions and expanded responsibilities for existing missions.

8. The global field support strategy had helped to prepare for those challenges, and those of the future. The strategic objectives set in 2010 — improving service and mandate delivery; strengthening resource stewardship and accountability; improving staff safety, security and quality of life; and utilizing local and regional capacity and reducing environmental impact — remained highly relevant, and tangible improvements had now been achieved in the field. The Department of Field Support had developed structures, tools and systems to support faster deployment, deliver more secure conditions for peacekeepers, and ensure a more responsible field footprint.

9. An end-state vision had been established for each of the pillars of the global field support strategy, with a revised performance framework for each pillar incorporating expected achievements and key performance indicators. The Department was actively rolling out innovations: under the finance pillar, the standard funding model and increased interim funding allowances had been applied for MINUSMA; modular infrastructure packages had been shipped for use in Mali and modular designs utilized in the Central African Republic; under the human resources framework, rosters continued to drive down recruitment timelines, and civilian staffing reviews had been conducted, with more scheduled; and the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe had launched integrated service lines with enhanced client support tools.

10. New opportunities presented themselves to refine and deliver the end-state vision. Rather than establishing additional regional service centres, the Department would submit a proposal for providing non-location-dependent shared services to field missions not supported by Entebbe. The approach to shared services would be closely aligned on the Umoja approach to service delivery, so as to realize the potential of the shared services approach. In anticipation of the roll-out of education grant processing through Umoja, for example, the Department would seek approval for a pilot project to consolidate the education grant function as a shared service for all missions, thereby providing an opportunity to expand the client missions of the Service Centre and test financing models that respected the Assembly's requirement for scalability. As a result,

two posts would be abolished at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, with the workload absorbed by Entebbe.

11. The global field support strategy would come to an end in mid-2015; the Department would articulate a post-support strategic approach to guide its work and sustain its commitment to continuous improvement.

12. The overview report now before the Committee (A/68/731) captured the complexity of developments in peacekeeping activities, which called for careful deliberation of such priorities as air operations, fuel and rations, conduct and discipline, and information technology and communications. Discussion was also required of emerging developments, such as inter-mission cooperation, as exemplified by the crisis in South Sudan. The potential for the expanded use of new technology, including unmanned aerial systems, was also receiving attention. Equally, Umoja and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) were having a notable impact on the workflows at the heart of peacekeeping operations, bearing in mind the need to ensure scalability.

13. He welcomed the recommendations made by the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment as recognizing the harsh conditions faced by contingents. The Department was determined to support the military, police and civilian staff who risked their lives delivering field mission mandates, to whom he paid tribute.

14. **Ms. Pollard** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/68/756), said that in 2013 there had been a slight increase in the number of reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, with 96 allegations reported compared to 88 in 2012; of the 96 allegations in 2013, 66 had been made against peacekeeping personnel, the majority, as in previous years, in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), MINUSTAH, UNMIL and UNMISS.

15. Between June and August 2013 a small team of experts had visited the four missions to assess and identify risk factors that might contribute to instances of sexual exploitation and abuse. Their recommendations, currently under review, would inform future measures on prevention, enforcement and remedial action.

16. Despite the increase in allegations reported in 2013, there had been a general downward trend over the years in the number of allegations, and of substantiated allegations, of sexual exploitation and abuse. Nevertheless, as in the previous reporting period, nearly half of the allegations reported in 2013 involved the most egregious forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and allegations of sexual abuse were being substantiated in a greater proportion. The situation remained a source of grave concern; vigorous preventive efforts were required.

17. The Secretary-General remained committed to the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse, and re-emphasized his continued commitment to preventing the perpetration of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and personnel.

18. **Ms. Lapointe** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on its activities on peace operations for the period 1 January to 31 December 2013 (A/68/337 (Part II)), said that the initiative to make internal audit reports available to the public had been positive in terms of transparency, with no unintended or negative consequences. There was growing interest in the reports, as evidenced by webpage visits and reports downloaded. No Member States or members of senior management had availed themselves of the possibility to request advance copies prior to issuance.

19. In 2013 OIOS had issued over 200 oversight reports and some 500 recommendations on peacekeeping matters. Over the reporting period, the Internal Audit Division of OIOS had made greater use of thematic audits to identify systemic strengths and weaknesses across peace operations. Thematic audits had been completed on preparedness for the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards; management of contingent-owned equipment; management of rations contracts; receiving and inspection activities; accounts receivable and payable; fuel management; and procurement.

20. Although in 2013 the Investigations Division had undergone restructuring, it had continued to carry out investigations, in particular, in order to enforce the zero-tolerance policy of sexual exploitation and abuse involving uniformed personnel. OIOS continued to rely on Member States to do their part in pursuing

appropriate follow-up action in accordance with the related memorandums of understanding.

21. The Inspection and Evaluation Division had begun a comprehensive risk-based work planning analysis, and had identified 53 discrete peacekeeping topics, including cross-cutting themes, for evaluation. The Division had completed a meta-evaluation of peacekeeping evaluations, which had led to the establishment of an institutional framework for cooperation between OIOS and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in order to improve the quality and utility of peacekeeping evaluations.

22. OIOS had continued its efforts to address staffing vacancies: the OIOS vacancy rate for peacekeeping at the end of 2013 had been 18 per cent, much lower than the 25 per cent at year-end 2011. Vacancy rates were expected to improve following the restructuring of the Investigations Division.

23. Turning to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the implementation and results of protection of civilians mandates in United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/68/787), she said that protecting civilians was one of the most critical tasks entrusted to a peacekeeping mission, and one of the most visible areas of Organization activity. When the Organization was seen to fail in that task, its reputation suffered.

24. The evaluation covered 8 of the 10 peacekeeping operations currently holding a mandate to protect civilians. It excluded MINUSCA, just established in the Central African Republic, and MINUSMA, in Mali, which had still been new when the evaluation had begun in mid-2013. It delved deeply into the ways in which the Organization's peacekeeping missions implemented protection of civilians mandates, looking at what worked well and what worked less well.

25. The point of departure for the evaluation had been a comprehensive review commissioned in 2009 by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, indicating that the chain of events to support protection of civilians was broken. The Department of Field Support and the Office of Legal Affairs had also been consulted.

26. Over the intervening years, structures and guidance had been developed, partnerships had been clarified, and preventive and mitigating activities

appeared to be achieving results, at least in locations within reach of peacekeeping bases.

27. However, despite improvements, peacekeeping operations frequently lacked the capacity and willingness to effectively intervene in active conflicts to protect civilians under attack. They rarely used the force available to them and instead resorted to more passive measures, such as sheltering civilians who fled to their bases. As a result, the civilian toll in many such conflicts had been terrible, even when peacekeeping forces had been in close proximity.

28. Multiple reasons contributed to that state of affairs: views on the use of force differed among troop-contributing countries and among Security Council members themselves; a de facto dual line of command appeared to operate within missions, whereby troop-contributing countries and mission leadership might issue differing instructions to contingents; the obligation of missions to act when host Governments were unable or unwilling to discharge their responsibility to protect civilians was not well understood; peacekeeping missions believed they had insufficient resources to respond to force with force; and contingent members themselves were concerned about possible penalties if their use of force was judged inappropriate.

29. As a result of those factors, a distance had emerged between policy and practice in relation to protection of civilians. That distance compromised the ability of the United Nations to discharge the protection of civilians mandates, and must be narrowed.

30. The evaluation made three recommendations. As a first step, the operational control of the United Nations over military contingents in peacekeeping missions should be enhanced: failures by contingents to follow orders or instructions issued by a peacekeeping mission in relation to a protection of civilians mandate should be communicated to United Nations Headquarters for review with the troop-contributing country concerned. In addition, the clarity of peacekeepers' tasks at the tactical level should be improved, so that decisions could be made more quickly on the ground, as should the working relationships affecting cooperation and coordination between peacekeeping operations and humanitarian entities.

31. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support had accepted all three recommendations, but had expressed reservations about whether the first recommendation would, in fact, improve the performance of peacekeeping operations in delivering on their mandates, stating that challenges to command and control were rare, and pointing to existing processes that addressed such circumstances.

32. While some of the solutions to the problems identified in the evaluation lay with the Secretariat and other United Nations entities, others lay with Member States. The reality was that the United Nations could not fully protect civilians while the troop-contributing countries did not instruct their contingents to do all they could, including using force as a last resort when civilians were under attack.

33. Such instructions remained, de facto, within the control of Member States, and not the Secretariat. Use of force was a highly contentious issue, as the United Nations was devoted to furthering peace; nevertheless further debate on the use of force to protect civilians appeared to be warranted. Such debate could contribute to building consensus on the issue.

34. All the permanent members of the Security Council interviewed for the evaluation were strongly supportive of such a debate. She trusted that the report would come to the notice of members of the Security Council in case the analysis it contained could be useful to them.

35. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/68/782](#)), said that the Secretary-General projected overall resource requirements of \$7.4 billion for the 2014/15 period. However, that figure included a projection of only six months for UNMISS, and did not include amounts for MINUSCA. A 12-month extrapolation of the resource requirements for UNMISS as well as the forecast requirements for MINUSCA would result in an overall increase in the projected level of expenditure for all peacekeeping operations compared to 2013/14. The Advisory Committee recommended that updated information on overall projected requirements for 2014/15 should be provided to the General Assembly at the current session.

36. Regarding missions that were reducing in size, the Advisory Committee noted that there could be a lag between a decision by the Security Council to reduce the authorized strength for uniformed mission personnel and adjustments to resource requirements and related assessed contributions. That could lead to over-budgeting and the prolonged retention of assessed contributions. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that when the Security Council decided on such adjustments, where there was a projected reduction of at least \$10 million or 5 per cent of the mission's resource requirements, the Secretary-General should make a proposal for an immediate downward revision in the related estimates. The Secretary-General should also set out the modalities for implementing such a new provision for the consideration of the General Assembly, either at the time of the next Security Council decision in that regard or at the main part of the sixty-ninth session, whichever came first.

37. Concerning cooperation between missions, the Advisory Committee noted an increasing tendency towards regional mission cooperation and accompanying arrangements for common or shared services. In recent years the Security Council had also endorsed specific cases of inter-mission cooperation as a tool to maximize the utility of existing assets and resources deployed by missions in nearby countries. Most recently, in response to the unfolding crisis in South Sudan in late 2013, the Council had authorized the transfer of troops, force enablers and multipliers to UNMISS from other missions. The Secretary-General indicated that that had been a first trial for the United Nations in meeting large-scale, immediate surge requirements in infantry battalions, formed police units and air assets through inter-mission cooperation.

38. The Advisory Committee recalled that borrowing from active missions was not permitted under General Assembly resolutions. All inter-mission cooperation arrangements must respect that fundamental principle, and all services, assets and personnel must be funded where the activity took place. In the view of the Advisory Committee, therefore, related costs should be charged to the receiving mission from the date of transfer. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to provide clear, transparent and timely reporting. In addition, in its report the Advisory Committee made comments and recommendations concerning the existing arrangements for the use of temporary duty

assignments for personnel, which amounted to cross-mission subsidization as well as a costly means of filling temporary staffing gaps.

39. Concerning budget performance in peacekeeping missions, a more detailed explanation of variances between planned and actual expenditures under major expenditure lines would assist in measuring budgetary precision and financial discipline. The presentation of efficiency targets for past, present and future periods could be improved, with cross-cutting targets distinguished from mission-specific targets and with changes attributable to mandate changes being separated from those that were not.

40. Regarding civilian staffing, the Advisory Committee had considered the need to re-justify or propose for abolishment posts that had long been vacant in missions. The Advisory Committee also noted the relatively static number of posts at the higher levels in peacekeeping missions. Concerning Government-provided personnel, the Advisory Committee stressed that greater clarity was required in terms of the functions for which such personnel might be considered appropriate and recommended that a comprehensive review should be undertaken.

41. In its report the Advisory Committee also made a range of observations and recommendations with respect to the operational side of peacekeeping missions, including environmental management, demining, asset management, air operations and management of construction projects. With respect to travel resources in particular, in view of persistent concerns relating to the use of travel funds in peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee intended to request the Board of Auditors to conduct a comprehensive audit of official travel financed from peacekeeping budgets, including missions, the United Nations Logistics Base and the support account.

42. With regard to information and communication technology (ICT), the Advisory Committee emphasized the need for a transparent presentation of the full costs of the preparatory activities for Umoja implementation borne thus far by peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, in the light of the upcoming roll-out of Umoja to the entire Secretariat, as well as expansion of the scope of the enterprise data centres in Brindisi and Valencia to provide services to the entire Secretariat rather than to peacekeeping operations only, the Advisory Committee stressed the need to clarify support arrangements and

cost-recovery mechanisms, as well as responsibility and accountability for the provision of such services.

43. The Advisory Committee noted that, due to current reporting arrangements, there was no comprehensive view of the total cost, budget and staffing of ICT in peacekeeping. Such a comprehensive view was necessary for proper planning, budgeting and decision-making on ICT matters, as well as a point of reference for comparing costs over time and internally with other Secretariat ICT units. Given the magnitude of the resources devoted to ICT, as well as the significant changes taking place in the ICT landscape of the United Nations, including Secretariat-wide use of enterprise systems and data centres, the Advisory Committee intended to request the Board of Auditors to conduct a comprehensive audit of peacekeeping ICT expenditures.

44. In its report the Advisory Committee also commented on other ICT matters, including the consolidation of global geospatial capabilities, the extension of the regional approach to the provision of ICT services, the migration to a new e-mail system, and the delivery of ICT services at Headquarters.

45. With respect to the special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, the Advisory Committee recalled its view and that of the Secretary-General that one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was one case too many. Regarding the allegations reported in peacekeeping missions, the Advisory Committee remained especially concerned about the high proportion of the allegations relating to the most egregious forms of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as the persistently high number of allegations received in the same four peacekeeping missions. The Advisory Committee looked forward to the proposals arising from the findings of the related panel of experts.

46. The Advisory Committee reiterated its agreement with the broad goals of the global field support strategy in accelerating mission start-up and deployment and improving the quality and timely delivery of service to field missions. It noted the progress made in the various reporting requirements mandated by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that the relevant guidance, tools and principles for the implementation of the strategy were embedded into the working practices of

the Organization beyond its planned five-year implementation period.

47. The proposed provision of global functions by the Regional Service Centre was a significant departure from the initial vision for the global field support strategy. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended against the proposed consolidation of education grant processing functions in the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe. The Advisory Committee further recommended that a review of the roles of the Global and Regional Service Centres should be included in the Secretary-General's final progress report, taking into account any further proposals to transition non-location-dependent support functions to shared locations.

48. Lastly, introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/68/867), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the recommendations of the 2014 Working Group contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/830).

49. **Ms. Rios Requena** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, paid tribute to the men and women who served in peacekeeping missions, in particular those who had lost their lives in the service of humanity.

50. During consideration of the item before the Committee, the Group would focus on ensuring that budget preparation and approval were based on the real situation on the ground and the implementation of mandates, rather than arbitrary cuts disguised as efficiency measures; the financial and budgetary implementation of inter-mission cooperation and related mechanisms, in order to ensure they did not violate rules approved by the General Assembly, specifically the provisions prohibiting the utilization of cross-borrowing between active missions; progress in the implementation of major business transformation projects related to peacekeeping operations, including IPSAS, enterprise resource planning and Umoja, and the global field support strategy, in terms of their qualitative impact and intended benefits; the unresolved systemic difficulties faced by the troop-contributing countries, including underrepresentation in the Secretariat and mission civilian components, matters related to timely settlement of death and

disability compensation claims as well as settlement of dues owed to troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment; and the report of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment.

51. Each peacekeeping mission had its own mandate and functions, and faced its own challenges in a unique environment. Budget preparation and approval must be guided by such peculiarities if peacekeeping was to be effective. The Group was deeply worried by a growing trend of imposed budget reductions, shaped by financial imperatives, the need for additional resources in other peacekeeping missions, or an arbitrary overall target for peacekeeping expenditures, in blatant disregard of the specific needs of missions.

52. It was also a great concern that so-called efficiency measures were sometimes pursued at the expense of operational capacities, and the safety and security and morale of peacekeepers, as in the case of budget cuts that affected medical transportation and decisions adopted in rations management. While the Group believed in the need to improve the administration of peacekeeping missions, a “peacekeeping on the cheap” approach would fail to help countries to stabilize and establish the basis for sustainable peace, and would, in the end, generate the need for additional resources.

53. Recently, the Organization had faced a renewed surge in the demand for peacekeeping missions. The Group of 77 and China recognized the difficulties in responding to crisis in a timely manner and welcomed the Secretary-General’s efforts in that regard. Yet it was deeply concerning to see new challenges as justification for open violation of decisions of the General Assembly and the basic budgetary principle that money must be spent in accordance with budgetary approval.

54. The Group recognized the benefits arising in some circumstances from inter-mission cooperation, but regretted that that was happening to the detriment of the independence of mission budgets and transparency in the budget process. The Group would not accept the undermining by new processes and practices of the decisions of the Assembly that prohibited cross-borrowing between active missions. The Group would seek clarification of the use of Government-provided personnel and of the practice of lending staff from one mission to another.

55. The Group noted that peacekeeping missions that had undergone a civilian staffing review presented significant reductions in their civilian components. She recalled that the mandate given by the Assembly was to ensure that the civilian staffing structure of each mission was appropriate for effective implementation of mandates, and cautioned against a biased implementation of Assembly resolutions that always understood “appropriate” as a reduced civilian component. She stressed the need for the Secretary-General to fully respect the terms of General Assembly resolutions.

56. The Group of 77 and China attached great importance to both the military and civilian mandates of peacekeeping operations. It was long past the time when the benefits of multidimensional peacekeeping mandates were questioned. It would be a terrible setback if the pressure to reduce costs in a context of emerging challenges to international peace and security resulted in a return to military solutions that disregarded the need for parallel, effective peacebuilding efforts. Compromising the ability of missions to perform the substantive civilian activities foreseen in mandates was a recipe for lengthy military presences.

57. The Group was dismayed that, in spite of the progress made in recognizing the critical role played by quick-impact projects in strengthening the link between missions and local populations and in accomplishing mission objectives, the Committee could not avoid petty discussions over small provisions for such activities. The Group reaffirmed the critical role played by quick-impact projects and stressed the need to ensure that funds for their implementation were readily available during all phases of missions.

58. Troop-contributing countries made an invaluable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security while making great sacrifices in harsh, complex and often dangerous situations. The Group emphasized the importance of the Secretary-General’s continuing to closely consult with the troop-contributing countries on all matters related to peacekeeping operations, as well as the importance of the issues referred to in the report of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment. Furthermore, the Group found it difficult to understand the continuing lack of improvement in the representation of troop-contributing countries in the Secretariat, particularly at the senior management level, despite

repeated calls by the General Assembly for the Secretary-General to make further efforts to ensure adequate representation of troop-contributing countries in all relevant departments, particularly in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and in the Department of Field Support, in line with their contributions to peacekeeping. The Group would be interested to hear about steps taken in that regard.

59. There had been a slight increase in the number of allegations reported of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions, as noted in the report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/68/756). It was important to continue efforts to reduce their incidence and the length of investigations, particularly in cases involving the most egregious forms of abuse. The Group encouraged the collaborative efforts between the Organization and its Member States in terms of preventive measures, awareness-raising and training to ensure effective implementation of the zero-tolerance policy.

60. Consideration of cross-cutting issues served as an important policy tool in providing comprehensive guidance to the Secretary-General on the effective and efficient management of the United Nations flagship activity of peacekeeping operations. Implementing cross-cutting policies could not equate to an all-encompassing treatment of peacekeeping missions and their budgets. The Group firmly rejected reductions imposed by arbitrary ceilings on peacekeeping expenditures as well as procedures that led to cross-borrowing between active missions.

61. **Ms. Power** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia and Ukraine, said that the member States of the European Union were strong supporters of peacekeeping — a core task of the Organization and the United Nations flagship activity — and were committed to ensuring that United Nations peacekeeping was as effective as possible in the interest of maintaining peace and security.

62. The European Union member States had a big stake in United Nations peacekeeping as important contributors financially, as well as active supporters of and participants in United Nations-mandated

peacekeeping operations, contributing with troops, civilian police and other personnel. The Secretary-General's proposed budget of \$7.4 billion did not include the full annual requirement for UNMISS or the cost of the newly mandated mission in the Central African Republic, so that the projected requirement for the upcoming year was likely to approach \$8.5 billion, a historical high.

63. Accordingly, bearing in mind Member States' budgetary constraints, strict budgetary discipline was more necessary than ever to ensure that resources were really needed and used as effectively and efficiently as possible. Her delegation would scrutinize all peacekeeping budgets, in particular those of missions in a state of drawdown, as well as support functions, so as to understand the real picture regarding military, police and civilian personnel requirements in missions and the impact on proposed budgets.

64. Closer scrutiny of the civilian component of peacekeeping, including requests for new posts, was important. As peacekeeping mandates had become more complex, the role of civilian personnel had increased and the civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping were an important part of a global Secretariat. Nonetheless, it was a priority to ensure that the civilian staffing structure of each peacekeeping mission, in particular the ratio of the support component to the rest of the mission, was appropriate.

65. It was also necessary to scrutinize the proposed levels of operational costs. There was room for improvement, in particular, in construction planning, rations delivery and air transportation. She welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to identify sustainable efficiency measures, which should be distinct from reductions resulting from mandate changes, and looked forward to more consistent efforts across missions and more targeted direction from Headquarters.

66. Effective budgetary procedures were crucial for sustainable, predictable and affordable budgets. The Advisory Committee's recommendations on how to address the problems arising from the inability of current budgetary practices to reflect sooner Security Council decisions to reduce the authorized strength for uniformed mission personnel were extremely pertinent, as were its comments on the dangers of double budgeting in inter-mission cooperation, which offered undoubted benefits in the delivery of effective peacekeeping.

67. The European Union reiterated its continued full support for the global field support strategy. As the strategy entered its final phase, it was important to ensure its envisioned benefits were realized in terms of improved delivery of services in the field and the achievement of economies of scale, savings and strengthened accountability. In that regard, her delegation remained particularly committed to the original concept of the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe.

68. The increased number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, concentrated in the same four peacekeeping missions, and the number of cases involving the most egregious forms of abuse, gave cause for concern. She looked forward to hearing more on the measures taken by the Secretariat to assess the risk factors that could undermine the successful implementation of the Secretary General's zero-tolerance policy, as well as on developments in investigating allegations and on action to improve prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The European Union shared the view that one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was one case too many.

69. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that, as the Organization's flagship activity, peacekeeping operations represented the most significant shared contribution by the international community to global peace and stability.

70. Over the past year, the demands on peacekeeping had increased significantly, with the expansion of a number of mission mandates, the establishment of a new mission in Mali, and authorization of a new mission in the Central African Republic. The three delegations looked forward to discussion of such issues as vehicle ratios, information and communication technology services, fuel management, personnel issues, rations and air operations. Unlike the previous year, the Committee should not lose the opportunity to agree on a cross-cutting draft resolution.

71. He welcomed the advances made in aviation management, and looked forward to the further development of key performance indicators to better benchmark and manage air operations: a significant operational enabler, and a major component of mission budgets.

72. On personnel issues, he welcomed the increasing trend towards the nationalization of posts and positions, particularly from a local capacity-building perspective. While that was dependent on such factors as the stage in a mission's life-cycle and the specific characteristics of the local labour market, the Secretary-General should continue his efforts to ensure that opportunities for mission host country nationals were maximized. He noted that despite the overall reductions in mission staffing levels, the number of high-level posts had remained static. Staffing structures should be rigorously scrutinized, with a particular emphasis on posts at the higher level.

73. The three delegations were concerned at the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, and at the number of cases involving the most egregious forms. Even one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse was one case too many. The perception that the United Nations was unable or unwilling to address such offences undermined both the Organization's credibility and the support of local communities which peacekeeping missions were there to assist. He looked forward to concrete proposals stemming from the findings of the panel of experts on special measures for protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. In the meantime, the three delegations remained strong supporters of the conduct and discipline teams, and would scrutinize the resources allocated to those teams to ensure they were sufficiently resourced.

74. The three delegations supported the global field support strategy, as an important ongoing peacekeeping-related reform initiative, and welcomed the refined, end-state vision for each pillar of the strategy, as well as the assessment of the benefits realized in service delivery and support, and cumulative net savings. The success of the support strategy would be measured by its impact in the field.

75. The protection of civilians was one of the most important and visible areas of peacekeeping operations. The OIOS evaluation of the implementation and results of protection of civilians mandates had raised serious questions that merited careful consideration.

76. Lastly, he paid tribute to all personnel in the field who risked their lives and well-being on a daily basis to fulfil United Nations mandates in peacekeeping operations, and in particular to those who had lost their lives in the service of the United Nations.

77. **Ms. Coto-Ramírez** (Costa Rica) noted with concern the increase in the allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly the number of cases involving the most egregious forms, and their concentration in the same four missions as in previous years. The data on extreme sexual violence in armed conflict used to punish, intimidate and subjugate women in particular were disquieting, not least the resultant pregnancies, a matter that required the particular attention of mission officials, both in the field and at Headquarters.

78. She welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen mechanisms for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and the expediting of and improvements in investigations into allegations by national authorities leading to the punishment of perpetrators. Her delegation vigorously supported the zero-tolerance policy and the stance that even a single substantiated case of abuse was unacceptable, and welcomed the strengthening of accountability and a more effective response in terms of protective measures and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

79. She noted with appreciation the recent amendments to the Staff Rules (A/68/129), whereby sexual exploitation and abuse was explicitly prohibited, in particular with regard to minors, as were the exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex.

80. In its routine operations, including peacekeeping operations and special political missions, the United Nations had an obligation to respect individual human rights and a duty to fully investigate perpetrators, including those in the chain of command, and to put an end to impunity.

81. Both the Organization and Member States should continue to enhance their capacity to take preventive action by expediting investigations, taking disciplinary measures and providing assistance to victims at the level of all offices involved.

82. **Mr. Yamamoto** (Japan) expressed his Government's appreciation of all peacekeepers serving in the field. Since Japan was both a major financial contributor and a troop-contributing country, when considering budgets his delegation paid careful attention to the conditions under which peacekeepers operated.

83. It was deeply disquieting that the overall picture regarding the 2014/15 peacekeeping budget was still not clear and that the total budget could greatly exceed its historical high of \$8 billion. In that regard, he welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to make peacekeeping operations more effective and efficient. While each mission's unique situation necessitated a separate, focused discussion on the individual mission, a comprehensive, cross-cutting approach was also important in order to achieve more effective and efficient operations across all peacekeeping missions. He encouraged the Department of Field Support Resource Efficiency Group to find further cost savings.

84. His delegation was also concerned that the inter-mission cooperation arrangement could lead to double funding. The recommendation by the Advisory Committee that revised estimates should be submitted for missions due to be downsized was interesting.

85. He welcomed the comprehensive civilian staffing reviews conducted of several missions, including UNAMID, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and UNOCI. However, the process was ongoing, and further reviews, of other missions, would follow. Comprehensive staffing reviews should be conducted periodically and should lead to appropriate reductions in posts.

86. His delegation was interested in the acquisition and contract management of long-term air charter service agreements, which could provide greater comfort for peacekeepers as well as further efficiency gains in the field of air operations. He looked forward to hearing the results of the pilot request for proposals.

87. He also welcomed the Secretary-General's reduction in the global light passenger vehicle fleet by more than 1,000 vehicles in 2012/13. The reduction should lead to multiple cost savings, such as expenditure on fuel and spare parts. The Secretary-General should continue to examine the number of vehicles and align the numbers with the standard ratio across all missions.

88. His delegation welcomed the progress made through the global field support strategy, in particular the savings of nearly \$400 million generated over last three budget cycles, including through the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre initiative. The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to achieve further efficiency gains,

so as to contribute to the sustainable funding of peacekeeping operations by Member States.

89. He took note of the refined end-state articulations and achievements as the strategy entered its final phase, and the future approaches to the delivery of field support. However, the Committee should examine the lessons learned from the experience of the global field support strategy before embarking on the next step, taking into account the reflections of Member States.

90. Sexual exploitation and abuse could not be tolerated; the policy of zero tolerance must be fully implemented. His delegation had undertaken various initiatives in collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

91. He welcomed the agreement reached by the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment in the context of the triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States. Lastly, bearing mind the absence of a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues at the previous session, he encouraged delegations to submit any questions in a timely manner so as to allow sufficient time to achieve consensus.

92. **Mr. Lieberman** (United States of America) said that the Committee's responsibility for management policy and oversight meant that its work had a direct bearing on the ability of the United Nations to improve the lives of the most vulnerable populations the world over, particularly with regard to peacekeeping, the flagship activity of the Organization. Although lack of agreement on the various policies and issues had often prevented the Committee from adopting a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues, he trusted that at the current session it would make strides to ensure an administrative policy framework underpinning United Nations peacekeeping and allowing the Organization to effectively tackle its increasingly challenging mandates.

93. Regarding the effectiveness of the Organization, the approval of the global field support strategy four years previously had effected a paradigm shift in how the United Nations supported its field operations: many duplicative support structures had been eliminated, and missions were leaner and more efficient, and able to respond more quickly to new challenges, including through pre-defined modules and service packages and enhanced authority to draw upon both the

Peacekeeping Reserve Fund and strategic deployment stocks. Yet questions remained, particularly with regard to some pillars of the strategy that had changed from their initial conception. While course correction could be necessary to address issues that arose during implementation, his delegation wished to better understand the changes and their impact on operations.

94. It was also imperative for missions to have peacekeepers with the requisite tools and training to perform the tasks required. More needed to be done to update the current architecture to ensure that the United Nations had the flexible and mobile capabilities required.

95. His delegation noted the progress made by the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment. Its recommendations should enhance the ability of troops and formed police units to maintain high standards of unit readiness, and lead to new modalities for rotating equipment at United Nations expense and improvements in how mission factors were determined. The Working Group had also requested the Secretary-General to examine ways to better reflect both the intensity of operations and usage in the reimbursement system.

96. Peacekeeping, however, went far beyond contingent personnel: it was multidimensional, overlapping many of the traditional roles and responsibilities of the agencies, funds and programmes. Effective cooperation between missions and United Nations country teams was critical, not only to ensure a coordinated whole-of-system approach to post-conflict situations, but also to ensure the most effective use of limited resources. He looked forward to receiving information on the implementation of the new policy on integrated assessment and planning.

97. With regard to vacancy management, missions had limited capacity to engage and absorb personnel, particularly in early stages of mission deployment or because of changing security situations, with the result that staff often become concentrated in mission headquarters and disconnected from the situation in the field. A more prudent approach was for the Secretary-General to rethink mission staffing plans for better alignment with the operational environment; to prioritize and fill posts as the situation permitted; and to continuously review the need for vacant posts in the context of civilian staffing reviews.

98. His delegation agreed strongly with the need for transparency with respect to inter-mission cooperation arrangements and cross-borrowing. However, he recognized the need for pragmatic solutions in rapidly changing circumstances. In the case of temporary inter-mission cooperation arrangements it was impractical to charge all costs to receiving missions when that guaranteed that they would spend beyond their appropriations while contributing missions were left with significant unencumbered balances. A solution must be found that allowed the United Nations to rapidly respond to crises while allowing the Committee to exercise its oversight function and assess whether resources were being used in the most appropriate manner.

99. Regarding the credibility of the Organization, he welcomed the steps taken to enforce the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the vetting of personnel and enhanced reporting, and urged the Secretariat to strengthen such measures. However, sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and civilian staff remained a concern, with an increase in the number of allegations in peacekeeping missions in 2013 following three years of decline. Furthermore, the time taken for cases to be investigated was unacceptably long, as was the number of cases pending.

100. He commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its frank evaluation of the implementation of protection of civilians mandates. While the related strategies encompassed more than physical protection and the use of force, such responses were generally the most visible and most tangible elements of missions' protection of civilians strategy, and became necessary when the lives of civilians were directly threatened.

101. According to the OIOS report, missions responded immediately to only 20 per cent of attacks on civilians and almost never used force, even as a last resort, except when troops were engaged in self-defence or defence of United Nations personnel and property. The report indicated a broad lack of understanding by peacekeepers of what protection of civilians entailed at the tactical level, a lack of commitment by mission leadership to use force in order to protect civilians, and persistent parallel lines of command between troop-contributing countries and their capitals that precluded the warranted use of force to protect civilians.

102. United Nations Headquarters, troop-contributing countries, mission leadership, and contingents must all share a common understanding of protection of civilians policies and boundaries if missions were to fulfil that mandate. The OIOS findings warranted serious consideration, but as the issues addressed included many beyond the competence of the Committee, a broader dialogue on protection of civilians was necessary.

103. The Organization must also strengthen its measures to prevent and address corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse. Press reports and instances noted in the reports of the Board of Auditors and Office of Internal Oversight Services indicated not only that those issues remained relevant, but that the systems in place within the Organization might not capture the full scope of the problem. The United Nations must take steps to better assess the risk of corruption and take measures at every level to mitigate such risks.

104. Lastly, the United Nations must ensure that it protected those who brought to light instances of misconduct in peacekeeping missions. A culture of accountability and the enforcement of robust policies and procedures were as important to ensuring the credibility of the Organization as the absence of misconduct and the ability to meet the expectations of local populations and the court of public opinion.

105. There were, in addition, many other cross-cutting issues. It was imperative for the Committee to be a paragon of efficiency and effectiveness by completing its consideration of all the reports before it and adopting a draft resolution on cross-cutting issues. Such a draft resolution would afford the institution of United Nations peacekeeping the ability to successfully confront the challenges it was increasingly asked to tackle.

106. **Mr. Kim Jihoon** (Republic of Korea) said that the complexity of peacekeeping operations today raised the question of how to implement them. Ever-broader mandates in ever-more challenging environments meant that those in peacekeeping operations must display creativity, and that the Secretariat's way of doing business must be reviewed periodically.

107. Air transportation, for example, had accounted for \$758 million in 2012/13, representing 10.4 per cent of all peacekeeping expenditure. Robust air transportation management was needed to execute operations in the field. He noted the Secretariat's

efforts to respond to surge and ad hoc requirements through the development of aviation modules and the temporary reassignment of commercially contracted aircraft. He trusted that those efforts to implement an optimal global air operations management system would continue.

108. Regarding the global field support strategy, he welcomed the streamlining of support functions for field operations. The service line delivery model in Entebbe, incorporating Lean Six Sigma analysis, offered a good example of innovation that contributed to the effective and efficient delivery of mandates.

109. Pending the assessment by the expert team deployed to report on cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in the four missions principally concerned, he urged the Secretariat to redouble its efforts to enforce zero tolerance.

110. The late issuance of Advisory Committee reports had given Member States insufficient time to consider them. As the Committee called for reform and innovation in the Secretariat, so, too, it must improve its own efficiency.

111. **Mr. Khalizov** (Russian Federation) said that the Secretary-General's and Advisory Committee's reports on cross-cutting issues in peacekeeping operations had been issued with a significant delay. The Secretariat must meet the deadlines for the issuance of documents, as failure to do so adversely affected the Committee's decision-making.

112. With estimates that the overall budget for peacekeeping operations for 2014/15 might reach a record level of over \$8 billion, it was incumbent upon the Member States and the Secretariat to seek further savings. While efforts had already been made to that end, the Board of Auditors, OIOS and the Advisory Committee had identified areas with the potential for increased outputs and efficiencies. Particular attention should be paid to construction projects; weaknesses in budget formulation; and long-term unused assets. While he welcomed the information provided on the savings achieved through the global field support strategy, he concurred with the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee that further detail was needed.

113. His delegation wished to receive further information on expenditure on environmental protection measures in peacekeeping missions. While he did not oppose such measures, they must be

effective and must be taken in accordance with established procedure.

114. **Mr. Sánchez Azcué** (Cuba) noted that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/218 B, and in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, the Office of Internal Oversight Services was authorized to perform monitoring, internal audit, inspection and evaluation, and investigation, but that its inspection and evaluation function related only to the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the programmes and legislative mandates of the Organization.

115. Accordingly, his delegation wondered what the reasons were for the preparation by OIOS of a second report on the contentious matter of the protection of civilians mandates (A/68/787), and whether further reports were planned. Notwithstanding the nobility of the call for greater protection for civilians, the report contained controversial and questionable value judgements and recommendations.

116. The Fifth Committee must respect the mandates and prerogatives of other United Nations bodies, and not involve itself in a political issue that was properly the domain of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

117. His delegation harboured serious reservations about the focus of the OIOS report and its recommendations, and shared some of the views expressed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support in annex I to the report.

118. However, his delegation's primary concern was that the report represented an attempt to steer peacekeeping towards a "responsibility to protect". It should be understood that any such approach would be rejected by his delegation.

119. There was no agreed definition by the General Assembly of the concept of the responsibility to protect, let alone its possible scope and other fundamental issues that would need to be defined. It should be borne in mind that primary responsibility for the protection of civilian populations lay with national authorities.

120. The concept of responsibility to protect compromised the neutrality of the United Nations, and, indeed, the safeguarding of the civilian population. Application of the concept in the context of

peacekeeping operations would blur the line clearly separating a peacekeeping operation from military intervention.

121. The fundamental principles underlying peacekeeping operations must not be discarded. Peacekeeping operations were impartial, must be conducted with the consent of the host country, and could not resort to the use of force other than in self-defence.

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/68/632, A/68/758 and A/68/782/Add.11)

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/68/686, A/68/686/Corr.1, A/68/782/Add.14 and A/68/788)

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (A/68/621, A/68/761 and A/68/782/Add.16)

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (A/68/709 and A/68/866)

122. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Deputy Controller) introduced the Secretary-General's budget performance reports for the period 2012/13 and the budget reports for the period 2014/15 for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/68/632 and A/68/758), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/68/686, A/68/686/Corr.1 and A/68/788) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (A/68/621 and A/68/761), as well as the Secretary-General's report on the donation and final disposition of the assets of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) (A/68/709).

123. For UNOCI and UNMIL, the 2014/15 budgets reflected the reduction in the military and civilian personnel strengths of the missions. With regard to MONUSCO, the Mission would continue its reconfiguration and the movement of its operations to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with only a minimum presence to be maintained in areas not affected by armed conflict. In addition, functions related to mine action and electoral assistance would be transferred to other United Nations entities. As a result, the 2014/15 budget included a net reduction of 384 posts and positions and the

conversion of a total of 45 international posts and United Nations Volunteer positions to national posts.

124. With respect to UNMIS, the General Assembly was requested to approve the donation of assets to the Government of the Sudan and to the Joint Integrated Units, as set out in paragraph 17 of the Secretary-General's report (A/68/709).

125. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introduced the reports of the Advisory Committee on UNOCI (A/68/782/Add.11), MONUSCO (A/68/782/Add.14), UNMIL (A/68/782/Add.16) and UNMIS (A/68/866).

126. With regard to UNOCI, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of some \$10.3 million in the proposed budget due to the likelihood of the unmanned aerial system not being used in 2014/15, a reduction in the cost estimates for consultants, and anticipated savings from a new contract for flight operations. It commended UNOCI on the projected completion of the integrated camps and logistics base at Anonkoua-Kouté in the 2013/14 period, as reflected in reduced requirements for rental of premises in 2014/15.

127. The Advisory Committee noted the envisaged establishment of a quick reaction force, subject to the approval of the Security Council, to support security requirements in Liberia or in the subregion. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would specify the cost-sharing arrangements associated with the quick reaction force prior to its deployment.

128. Regarding MONUSCO, the Advisory Committee welcomed the progress made towards the reconfiguration of the Mission and the movement of operations from the western to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the current financial period. It recommended that the Secretary-General should provide further details in his next budget submission of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the reconfiguration. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the organizational structure and staffing of the Mission's logistics hub at Entebbe should be reviewed in the light of the ongoing reconfiguration of its operations.

129. The Advisory Committee's recommendations on operational costs would result in a reduction of almost \$4 million in the proposed budget for MONUSCO. The Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed

resources for alteration, renovation and construction services should be maintained at current levels, in view of the low rate of expenditures recorded under that budget line for the 2013/14 period. It also recommended that the proposed resources for consultants, which reflect a tenfold increase compared to the current appropriation, should be reduced by 30 per cent. Further efforts could be made to harness the existing capacity of the Mission to support its requirements for specialized expertise.

130. With respect to UNMIL, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of some \$282,000 in the proposed budget. The recommended reductions resulted from adjusting the vacancy rates to be applied to national General Service staff in the light of recent incumbency patterns, the abolishment of two posts which had been vacant for two years or longer, and a 5 per cent reduction in the cost estimates for official travel.

131. The Advisory Committee commended UNMIL on the reduced expenditure on consultants in the 2012/13 period through the utilization of training resources from within the Mission. The Advisory Committee also welcomed the increased use of local consultants by UNMIL and recommended the use of local consultants by other peacekeeping missions.

132. Finally, with reference to the final disposition of assets of UNMIS, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed donation of assets to the Government of the Sudan. However, the Advisory Committee noted the absence of essential information in the Secretary-General's report: full information in relation to the final dispositions of assets should be provided in future reports.

133. **Ms. Seka-Fouah** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, with the support of UNOCI, the sociopolitical life and economy of Côte d'Ivoire were returning to normal, with an improvement in the security situation, while political dialogue and measures to reduce tension had promoted reconciliation, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme had led to the reintegration of over 27,000 former combatants. The progress had been marked by the adoption of Security Council resolution [2153 \(2014\)](#) easing the embargo on diamonds and light weapons and munitions.

134. Côte d'Ivoire was preparing for legislative and presidential elections in 2015 as a crucial step in the

peace process. Those preparations required an effort by both the people and Government, and UNOCI, as primary interlocutor. At such a sensitive juncture it was thus essential for the proposed budget for 2014/15 for the mission to be carefully scrutinized by the Committee. UNOCI played a critical role in the restoration of peace and security and the long-term stability of the country, and should receive all the resources needed to discharge its mandate in the interest of lasting peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

135. **Mr. Sun Xudong** (China) said that peacekeeping played an important role in maintaining world peace and stabilizing regional situations. His Government had always supported United Nations peacekeeping operations, not least in Africa, and made positive contributions in terms of both personnel and finance, notwithstanding its low per capita income and the many difficulties it faced in its modernization process. While Africa had the largest number of peacekeeping operations, it was a continent full of promise, experiencing rapid economic growth. As the largest peacekeeping mission, MONUSCO played a particularly important role.

136. Peacekeeping operations required adequate resources in order to discharge their missions. The changing international security situation meant that the scope and complexity of peacekeeping operations had increased, with a sharp rise in resource requirements. The total peacekeeping budget for 2014/15 was almost \$8 billion, of which the proposed budget for MONUSCO accounted for \$1.38 billion. That posed a huge challenge for Member States. Careful attention must be paid to peacekeeping budgeting so as to make more efficient use of funding. In particular, management must not be less rigorous simply because budgets were very large.

137. His delegation welcomed the introduction of Umoja and IPSAS. However, implementation problems had been identified by the Board of Auditors, and there were serious inadequacies in internal control in various missions, especially in budgeting, procurement and asset management. Moreover, a problem common to all peacekeeping missions was the mismatch between the mandate period authorized by the Security Council and the budget cycle, which not only undermined the integrity and legitimacy of budgeting, but also negatively affected the consideration of budgets by Member States.

138. Oversight and accountability in the administrative and budgetary management of peacekeeping missions must be strengthened. The Secretariat, both at Headquarters and in field missions, including MONUSCO, must act on the recommendations of auditing and regulatory bodies and the Advisory Committee so as to improve the management of peacekeeping resources. Once a problem was discovered, timely corrective action must be taken and those concerned held accountable. Economy must be practised and wastefulness ended.

Agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (continued)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (continued)

Thematic cluster III: United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (continued)
(A/68/7/Add.26 and A/68/327/Add.10)

139. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Deputy Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed additional resource requirements for 2014 for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) (A/68/327/Add.10), said that the requirements related mainly to the enhancement of security arrangements, including resources for the deployment of a United Nations guard unit, and resources in respect of 28 new positions proposed to carry out additional mandates, mainly in the fields of rule of law and security institutions, human rights and protection, and political affairs and mediation.

140. The total resource requirements requested amounted to \$22.2 million, to be charged against the provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

141. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/68/7/Add.26), said that the Advisory Committee recommended against one United Nations Volunteer (Administrative Assistant) position in the Office of the Director of the rule of law and security institutions group, and one P-4 Human Rights Officer position under the human rights section, with corresponding reductions in post-related operational

costs. Also under operational costs, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction in the amount of \$25,200 under consultants and experts, as well as a reduction in the amount of \$94,100 under official travel.

142. Taking those recommendations into account, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of additional resources for 2014 in the total amount of \$21,972,400 net, and also recommended approval of a charge totalling the same amount against the provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

143. **Ms. Pacunega Manano** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group attached great importance to UNSOM in the context of a lasting solution to the situation in Somalia, and acknowledged the sacrifice made by AMISOM forces, which had created the relatively stable environment in which UNSOM operated.

144. The Group welcomed the additional proposed requirements for UNSOM for 2014 in the amount of \$22,156,200, to implement new Security Council mandates, including for the funding of the United Nations guard unit, which would form part of the overall security concept of UNSOM. The Group would scrutinize all elements of the additional proposed requirements for UNSOM, as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, to ensure that UNSOM had the required resources to deliver its mandate.

Organization of work

145. **The Chair** said that the meeting held at the Finnish Permanent Mission the previous week had been held at his initiative. The size of the gathering had been determined by the size of the meeting space available; all of the Bureau members had been invited so that they might brief their respective regional groups about the meeting. No negotiations had taken place during the meeting.

146. **Mr. Saeed** (Sudan) said that he took note of the Chair's clarifications. The question remained, however, what the purpose or outcome of the meeting had been if no negotiations had been held. In order to safeguard the future of the Committee's deliberative process, actions should be avoided that were detrimental to its long-standing practice of transparency and decision-

making by consensus with the participation of all Member States. Moreover, all meetings involving discussions of matters before the Committee should be held on United Nations premises.

147. **Mr. Sánchez Azcuay** (Cuba), welcoming the Chair's explanation, said that the purpose of the meeting must still be clarified. His delegation was concerned that a meeting had been held without a mandate from the Committee to discuss matters on its programme of work. It was of even greater concern that the meeting, which involved senior Secretariat officials, had been held away from United Nations premises. Rules 60, 61, 106 and 107 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure must be strictly adhered to.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.