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Chair: Mr. Ružička (Slovakia)
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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

Agenda item 132: Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (*continued*)

Revised estimates resulting from the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 69/2, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples" (A/69/521 and A/69/657)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Deputy Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 69/2, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples" (A/69/521), said that the report detailed the additional budgetary requirements resulting from the adoption of the resolution. In the implementation of paragraphs 31 and 40 of that resolution, it was proposed that the related additional appropriation of \$101,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 should be approved as a charge against the contingency fund.

2. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/69/657), said that the Advisory Committee had no objection to the additional requirements of \$101,800 for documentation services in 2015. However, it intended to examine in greater detail the costing model for the processing of official documents by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management at the four main duty stations, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, in the context of the consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2016-2017.

3. **Ms. Rios Requena** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached great importance to the development of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and specific proposals to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at the United Nations on the issues

affecting them. It therefore fully supported the provision of the resources requested by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Advisory Committee.

Agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (A/69/550 and A/69/650)

4. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Deputy Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/69/550), said that the 2014/15 budget of the Mission amounted to \$1.1 billion, which reflected an increase in authorized troop strength from 7,000 to 12,500 military personnel and an increase in authorized police strength, including formed police units, from 900 to 1,323 personnel, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2155 (2014). In line with the change in the Mission's mandate under that resolution and the outcomes of the Mission's civilian staffing review, the 2014/15 budget also reflected a net reduction of 248 posts and positions and the abolishment of 91 positions for government-provided personnel. In its resolution 68/293, the Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNMISS in a total amount not exceeding \$580.8 million.

5. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/69/650), said that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee would entail a reduction of \$578,900 in the proposed budget for UNMISS as a result of the reduction of 23 posts, mostly under the support component. The Advisory Committee also suggested further reductions in two areas that the Assembly might wish to consider on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat to the Fifth Committee. The first concerned the proposed requirements for official travel and the need to ensure that training-related travel was properly categorized and that the requirements were estimated on the basis of economy class fares. The second concerned the estimated requirements for termination indemnity and separation payments, which in the Advisory Committee's view might be overstated.

6. The Advisory Committee also made a number of observations and recommendations on the presentation of the proposed budget. In its view, the document should have been better organized, given the extent of the resource and organizational changes being

proposed as a result of the revised mandate of the Mission and the significant increase in military and police personnel. The impact of the changes and the linkage between the proposed resources under the various components of the Mission and the increase in strength of uniformed personnel or newly mandated activities should be presented in a more transparent manner.

7. **Mr. Dosseh** (Togo), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group was seriously concerned about the late submission of the documentation related to that important agenda item. It was deeply regrettable that the budget proposal for a mission the size of UNMISS was being introduced so late in the session; he urged the Secretary-General to make additional efforts to address the situation.

8. Recalling that, pursuant to its resolution 2155 (2014), the Security Council had decided to review the Mission's mandate by reorienting the focus, the Group expressed concern that, in that resolution, the Security Council had encroached upon the mandate of the General Assembly by requesting the Secretary-General to reduce the civilian component, while at the same time the troop strength of the Mission had been increased by more than 70 per cent. It was important for each body to act strictly within its mandate and refrain from overstepping its prerogatives. The Group expected that that situation would not be repeated in the future.

9. With regard to the performance of the Mission for 2013/14, the Group noted the expenditure in the amount of \$0.92 billion, representing 99.4 per cent of the approved appropriation. It also noted that the expenditure for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2014 amounted to \$339 million, or 41.7 per cent of the approved commitment authority. With regard to the proposed budget for 2014/15, in general, the Group supported the Secretary-General's budget proposal in the amount of \$1.1 billion, which represented an increase of about 19 per cent compared with the 2013/14 apportionment. However, the budget proposal would have benefited from greater clarity by linking the proposed resources under the different components of the Mission and the increase in strength of uniformed personnel or newly mandated activities. The Group was also concerned that Mission functions related to capacity-building support for the Government of South Sudan had been discontinued. Every effort should be made to continue support for all

capacity-building activities. Lastly, in the informal consultations, the Group would seek clarification concerning a number of components of the budget proposal, including the reduction of quick-impact projects by 50 per cent, facilities and infrastructure, and the proposed reduction in civilian capacity.

Agenda item 144: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/69/L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.5/69/L.7: Administration of justice at the United Nations

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/69/L.7 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.