

ACABQ report: A/69/874; related reports: A/69/651; A/69/751 annexes I and II)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

ACABQ report A/69/839/Add.9; related reports: A/69/585 & Corr.1 and A/69/733/Rev.1

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on cross-cutting issues relating to peacekeeping operations (A/69/839). The report also includes observations and recommendations on a separate report submitted by the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/69/779). This year, in a departure from past practice and being the final year of the implementation of the global field support strategy, the Committee's observations and recommendations on this subject are contained in a separate stand-alone report.

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee recalls that in its previous session, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of several reports on cross-cutting issues relating to peacekeeping operations, including the report of the Advisory Committee (A/68/782). As a result, all recommendations and observations contained in that report matters continue to be valid and subject to the consideration of the General Assembly. The Committee has decided therefore to focus on just four themes with respect to the administrative and budgetary management of peacekeeping, where, in its view, there have been significant new developments since the issuance of previous report. Updates on several other issues are also included in Section F of the present report along with a full list of the recommendations covered by the previous report, listed in annex II.

On the form and content of the Secretary-General's annual overview report, the Committee considers that the report has the potential to play an important role in providing information on trtdtt po

therefore, that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a streamlined report

Third, the Committee makes a number of observations and recommendations with respect to the resources allocated for information and communications technology. In particular, it expresses concern over the gravity of some of the findings of the Board of Auditors in its recent audit of ICT in peacekeeping. The Board is particularly critical of the budgeting practices, standard-setting for different ICT products and services, staffing requirements (including use of contractors), as well as deficiencies in the security of ICT resources and data. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a detailed implementation plan to address these findings. In addition, the Committee stresses the importance of having a comprehensive picture of the all resource requirements for ICT activities in peacekeeping, along with greater transparency with respect to services provided regionally or by the UN Logistics Base as well as transparent accounting and reporting of costs. Finally, the Committee looks forward to examining further information relating to the impact of the consolidation of GIS capabilities in the UN Logistics Base.

The fourth and final theme examined in the Committee's report relates to air operations. Again, the Committee considers that the findings from the Board of Auditors in its review of air operations as well as the Committee's own observations provide the Organization with an important opportunity to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of its air operations. Specifically, the Committee notes that further analysis of utilization rates should be conducted to determine the optimum size and composition of the overall air fleet and expects that full implementation of the air transportation information management system over the 2015/16 period will help improve different aspects of air operations management. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report comprehensively on the results achieved to improve air operations, including on a rationalization of the roles and activities of the respective management of different units at Headquarters, in Brindisi and in Entebbe.

Mr. Chairman,

Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the Secretary-General's report on the special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, the Committee recalls its view and that of the Secretary-General that one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse is one case too many. The Committee notes that the number of allegations received in 2014 for peacekeeping and special political missions is the lowest recorded since the introduction of the special measures in 2003, however it remains concerned about the persistence of cases relating to the most egregious forms of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as the high proportion of allegation arising from a small number of peacekeeping missions. Concerning the range of measures put forward by the Secretary-General aimed at strengthening the Organization's response to sexual exploitation and abuse, the Committee acknowledges that these measures demonstrate a strengthened resolve to tackle this serious problem. It expects that the next report will contain further information on these measures, in particular those requiring action on the part of the General Assembly. Finally, the Committee

stresses that a sustained, proactive and visible involvement is required by senior managers at Headquarters and in the field so that the zero-tolerance policy is properly monitored and reinforced.

Mr. Chairman,

I will now turn to the Committee's report on the Secretary-General's fifth annual progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy and the related annexes in the overview report.

Given that this is the fifth and last progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy, the Advisory Committee has made observations and recommendations on a large number of issues, both of a general nature and on the individual pillars of the strategy. In the interest of time I will highlight only some of the Committee's main recommendations.

With regard to issues of a general nature, the Advisory Committee stresses the need to establish, at the five-year mark of this major initiative, a clear record of the goals, achievements and lessons learned as well as the costs incurred and benefits accrued. It recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide in his next (and last) performance report comprehensive information on the progress made towards the achievement of the end-state vision of the global field support strategy under each pillar, as well as information on the targets that were not achieved and plans for their implementation in the post-global field support strategy period.

In this regard, the Advisory Committee notes that over the five-year implementation period of the global field support strategy, the Secretariat has been engaged in the concurrent implementation of a number of major interrelated and mutually supportive business transformation and change management initiatives, such as IPSAS, Umoja and a series of human resources management reforms. More recent or upcoming proposals related to support and service delivery matters include the adoption of an ICT strategy for the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 69/262) and proposals for a global service delivery model. Given that most of the on-going reform initiatives are applicable Secretariat-wide, the Committee stresses the need for a holistic approach and close coordination to ensure that these reform initiatives are implemented in a manner that reinforces and multiplies their respective benefits, and avoids any duplication, wasteful use of resources and fragmentation of capacities.

I will now turn to the Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations regarding individual pillars of the global field support strategy.

With regard to the standardized funding model- the Advisory Committee is of the view that in both cases of its application – initially at UNMISS and a revised version at MINUSMA – the model proved to lack sufficient flexibility to adapt to the particular circumstances of the start-up mission or take into account its known requirements at the time of the preparation of the budget

proposal. Furthermore, in neither case were the key objectives of the standard funding model achieved, namely submission of a budget within 30 to 90 days of the start-up and a reduction in the number of requests for interim financing arrangements. With regard to the Secretary-General's assessment of the application of the standardized funding model at UNMISS, the Advisory Committee is of view that, given the significant redeployment of resources between groups and classes of expenditure, the implementation of the full budget alone is not an indicator of the efficient utilization of the resources provided or of the accuracy of the budgetary assumptions.

With regard to the start-up of MINUSCA, while the standardized funding model was not applied, the Advisory Committee was informed that the resource requirements of the Mission were estimated on the basis of the actual and planned deployment schedules for personnel and aircraft and that the underlying costs and unit prices were based on historical expenditure and deployment patterns of recent start-up missions, similar to those applied under the standardized funding model. The Advisory Committee is of the view that such an approach - which allowed timely submission of a start-up budget for MINUSCA and is applied within the existing budget process through which peacekeeping budgets are formulated, considered and approved - could constitute a more flexible and adaptable solution than the standardized funding model. While emphasizing the need to continue the efforts undertaken in the context of the development of the standardized funding model to analyse and standardize cost parameters, the Committee is of the view that there is no need for further development of the standardized funding model.

With regard to supply chain management, given the importance of the initiative as well as the costs of its implementation, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in his next overview report on peacekeeping operations detailed information on the implementation plan of the initiative. The Advisory Committee also emphasizes the need for a centralized approach under the leadership of the Department for Field Support to ensure proper coordination.

With regard to modularization, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to expedite the implementation of planned modularization and enabling activities in order to support the rapid deployment of modularized camps. In addition, given that uniformed personnel are the main recipients of services provided through modularization activities, the Advisory Committee stresses the need to obtain feedback on the adequacy, quality and timeliness of the modularization services provided, as well as to conduct periodic customer satisfaction surveys and report on results.

