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UNITED NATIONS



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Agenda Item 148

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

- **Support account for peacekeeping operations**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the performance of the support account for peacekeeping operations for 2013/14 (A/69/653 and Add.1), and the proposed budget for 2015/16 (A/69/750). I will highlight a number of overall issues; first about the budget performance and then about the proposed budget.

The General Assembly approved \$327.4 million for the support account for the 2013/14 period, including \$18.7 million for the financing of the enterprise resource planning project UMOJA. Actual expenditure was \$315 million – a budget implementation rate of 96.2 per cent – resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$12.4 million. Of these \$12 million, \$8 million reflect under-expenditure in posts due to vacancies and lower common staff costs. The remaining \$4 million reflect under-expenditure in consultants and general temporary assistance.

With these resources, we were able to backstop peacekeeping operations effectively and support implementation of number of Security Council decisions that had a large impact on operations. Let me give an example of the results achieved through the support account:

Backstopping the establishment of MINUSCA;
continuation of the Force Intervention Brigade in MONUSCO;
further protection of civilians in UNMISS.

Two major events that affected all peacekeeping missions and required intense backstopping support were:

Umoja Foundation solution that went live for its pilot in UNIFIL; and the IPSAS compliant financial statements which were prepared for all active and closed peacekeeping missions, and which received an unqualified opinion from the External Auditor.

Details of all of the

Staff costs represent more than 75 per cent of the total resources in the support account. The determination of the vacancy rate is therefore key to the accuracy of the budget. Most of the posts are located at Headquarters, and therefore susceptible to similar vacancy patterns for continuing, new and temporary posts. Therefore a vacancy rate of 12 per cent has been used for Professional posts and 6 per cent for General Service posts, regardless of whether they are continuing, new or temporary. The most up to date vacancy rates are provided in the s