

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by  
Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

29 June 2021

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by thanking the delegations for successfully concluding this session, in particular, for approving the budgets for peacekeeping operations. I wish to thank all the delegates who have been interacting with me personally, as well as with my team, especially Ms Vivian van de Perre, throughout the session but more particularly in the hectic closing days of the session. I thank them for their openness and for their understanding as we appealed repeatedly for greater speed in deciding on the issues at hand.

We are very relieved that, in the end, we managed to avert a shut-down of peacekeeping operations on 1 July due to lack of spending authority. But this was not only a close call, but has had several consequences already. When the agreement on the final amounts for the mission

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amount of time in preparing the final documents for adoption. Whether this will be a sustainable practice for the future, remains to be seen.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal again, formally, to this Committee to be mindful of the impact of the extension of its second resumed and main sessions into the last days of the budget period. It significantly impacts our ability to process year-end and beginning-of-year transactions, making it more difficult to comply with the financial regulations and rules governing such transactions.

Allow me to mention a few examples to illustrate the impact:

Assessment letters will be delayed, and I can only hope that this will not have a knock on effect on collections and the first quarter payments to troop and police contributing countries.

The preparation process for the budget instructions for the next cycle has been delayed, because resources were diverted to servicing the committee and also because the General sessions. This impacts the timely preparation of the next cycle of budget reports.

