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

Performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

Report of the Secretary-General

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Summary

The present report contains the performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002.

Financial resource performance

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002		Variance	
	Apportionment	Expenditure	Amount	Percentage
Post requirements	70 039.4	67 508.1	2 531.3	3.6
Non-post requirements	19 709.8	16 834.9	2 874.9	14.6
Gross requirements	89 749.2	84 343.0	5 406.2	6.0
Staff assessment income	10 497.9	11 015.0	(517.1)	(4.9)
Net requirements	79 251.3	73 328.0	5 923.3	7.5

Human resources — incumbency performance

	1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002	1 January to 30 June 2002 (additional)
Authorized staff		
Professional and above	341	80
General Service and related	221	45
Actual incumbency (average)		
Professional and above	310	46
General Service and related	219	33
Vacancy rate (percentage)		
Professional and above	9.1	42.5
General Service and related	1.0	26.7

The action to be taken by the General Assembly is set out in section V of the present report.

I. Scope of peacekeeping operations and Headquarters support during the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

1. The number of active peacekeeping operations during the reporting period was 13, taking into account the liquidation of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic. As indicated in the note by the Secretary-General on approved budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations (A/C.5/56/36), the overall peacekeeping budget level for the 2001/02 period remained relatively steady, at some \$2.7 billion, compared with the approved budget level for the preceding 12-month period ended 30 June 2001. The peak number of troops deployed during the reporting period was 38,100, compared with 29,190 during the 2000/01 period. The peak number of military observers and civilian police observers for the 2001/02 period remained relatively stable, at 1,634 and 7,957 respectively, compared with the 2000/01 period. Similarly, for the periods 2000/01 and 2001/02, the civilian staffing establishment for all peacekeeping operations averaged 16,300 personnel.

2. One of the significant milestones in the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Panel on Peace Operations during the reporting period was the development of the concept of strategic deployment stocks, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/870) and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/292 of 27 June 2002. Other areas of progress in regard to the rapid deployment capability of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations include the development of a new rapid deployment level for formed military units under the United Nations standby arrangements system, the establishment of a civilian police on-call roster, the development of generic job profiles for military personnel and civilian police, development of civilian on-call lists and the development of mission planning, start-up and support concepts for civilian components.

3. In addition, improvement in the level of dialogue between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Member States has enhanced the Department's efforts to re-evaluate its structure, determine its priorities and improve its capacity in support of peacekeeping operations. For example, consultations were undertaken on such initiatives as the strategic deployment stocks, on-call lists for military and police personnel and the development of standardized generic training modules used for the pre-deployment training of military components. With regard to mission planning, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has established a working group that has completed its initial mapping of the integrated planning process. This is currently being reviewed to take account of lessons learned and best practices. The Department has also continued to focus on improving its internal management through such efforts as the development of a departmental strategy aligned with the medium-term plan, the institutionalization of support for business plans and periodic reviews and improved performance management.

4. In backstopping the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the field missions, the Department of Management provided enhanced support in administrative services, including the initiative to increase procurement training of staff both at Headquarters and in the field.

II. Resource performance for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

5. Against the apportionment of \$89,749,250 for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, expenditures amounted to \$84,343,000. This resulted in an unencumbered balance of \$5,406,250, representing 6 per cent of the resources approved for the period. The unencumbered balance was attributable essentially to the actual vacancy rate being higher than the budgeted rate and to underexpenditures in respect of travel, communications and information technology.

A. Summary of resource performance by category

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Approved apportionment	Expenditure	Variance	
			Amount	Percentage
I. Post resources	70 039.4	67 508.1	2 531.3	3.6
II. Non-post resources				
General temporary assistance	768.3	579.6	188.7	24.6
Consultants	450.0	474.6	(24.6)	(5.5)
Official travel	828.6	560.2	268.4	32.4
Facilities and infrastructure	9 606.1	9 387.3	218.8	2.3
Communications	635.2	282.0	353.2	55.6
Information technology	6 251.1	4 462.1	1 789.0	28.6
Miscellaneous services, supplies and equipment	1 170.5	1 089.1	81.4	7.0
Subtotal, category II	19 709.8	16 834.9	2 874.9	14.6
Gross requirements, categories I-II	89 749.2	84 343.0	5 406.2	6.0
III. Staff assessment income	10 497.9	11 015.0	(517.1)	(4.9)
Net requirements, categories I-III	79 251.3	73 328.0	5 923.3	7.5

B. Other income and adjustments

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Amount
Interest income	1 869
Other/miscellaneous income	3
Voluntary contributions in cash	—
Prior-period adjustments	(1)
Savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations	1 255
Total	3 126

III. Analysis of variances¹

	<i>Variance</i>	
Posts	\$2,531.3	3.6%

6. For the 562 continuing posts approved for the 12-month period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, the actual vacancy rates were 9.1 per cent for staff in the Professional category and 1 per cent for staff in the General Service and related categories, compared with the budgeted vacancy factors of 8 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

7. For the 125 additional posts approved for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2002, the budget provided for the full incumbency of 91 posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and a 50 per cent delayed recruitment factor for 34 posts in other departments and offices. The actual vacancy rate in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was 9.7 per cent, while the actual vacancy rate for 34 posts in the other departments and offices averaged 29.6 per cent.

	<i>Variance</i>	
General temporary assistance	\$188.7	24.6%

8. The unspent balance was attributable primarily to the fact that the updating of the Field Administration Handbook by the Office of Human Resources Management was obviated by the development of a new Human Resources Standards of Procedure Handbook by the Personnel Management and Support Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, the provision for clearing the backlog in the processing in the Integrated Management Information System of field-based entitlements of mission-based staff was unspent, owing to the fact that this output was completed through the use of in-house resources. Furthermore, actual requirements for the clearance of the backlog of Headquarters Property Survey Board cases for closed missions were lower than originally estimated.

	<i>Variance</i>	
Consultants	(\$24.6)	(5.5%)

9. The additional requirements resulted from the need to utilize outside expertise to assist in the development and application of results-based budgeting in the budget of the support account for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

	<i>Variance</i>	
Official travel	\$268.4	32.4%

10. The unspent balance was attributable mainly to the fact that actual requirements for travel to conduct comprehensive and interim salary surveys and mission subsistence allowance surveys were lower than originally estimated. In

¹ Resource variance amounts are expressed in thousands of United States dollars.

addition, a number of monitoring visits to peacekeeping missions planned by the Operational Services Division of the Office of Human Resources Management were cancelled as a result of a delay in developing the monitoring frameworks.

	<i>Variance</i>	
Facilities and infrastructure	\$218.8	2.3%

11. The unutilized balance was attributable primarily to reduced requirements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for office furniture and rental of office equipment.

	<i>Variance</i>	
Communications	\$353.2	55.6%

12. The unspent balance was attributable primarily to lower actual requirements for commercial communications between Headquarters and the field missions.

	<i>Variance</i>	
Information technology	\$1,789.0	28.6%

13. Two salient factors contributed to the unutilized balance: (a) the reduced level of maintenance and support services provided to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations owing to a delay in the implementation of an external service agreement; and (b) the utilization of in-house resources for the development of specialized application software, including Galaxy, E-Stars, Mercury, a web-based version of the field assets control system and the funds monitoring tool.

	<i>Variance</i>	
Miscellaneous supplies, services and equipment	\$81.4	7.0%

14. The unspent balance resulted mainly from lower actual requirements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for other miscellaneous services.

IV. Activities of the Training and Evaluation Service for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

A. Training assistance requested and provided

<i>Host</i>	<i>Period</i>
Islamic Republic of Iran	July 2001
Argentina	August 2001
United Republic of Tanzania/France	August 2001
France	September 2001
Bosnia and Herzegovina	September 2001
France	September 2001
Côte d'Ivoire	October 2001
United Republic of Tanzania/France	November/December 2001
Islamic Republic of Iran	January 2002
Hungary	March 2002
Namibia	April 2002
Nepal	April 2002
Islamic Republic of Iran	April 2002

B. Regular activities

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Period</i>
Twelfth United Nations Training Assistance Teams/ integration of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants course	Kenya	August 2001
Preparatory meeting for gender training support for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)	New York	September 2001
Gender training in support of MONUC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	October 2001
Gender training in support of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone and mission training cell visit	Sierra Leone	October/November 2001
Thirteenth United Nations Training Assistance Teams course	Côte d'Ivoire	May/June 2002
First United Nations standardized generic peacekeeping training seminar	Finland	June 2002

C. Requests for peacekeeping training from Member States that the Service was unable to undertake

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Reason support was not provided</i>
United Nations Training Assistance Teams course	Argentina	No staff available
Mission orientation programme	Norway	Cancelled
United Nations Training Assistance Teams course	Bolivia	No staff available

V. Action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session

15. The action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session is:

(a) To apply the unencumbered balance of \$5,406,250 in respect of the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 to the support account requirements for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004;

(b) To apply other income and adjustments amounting to \$3,126,000, comprising interest income (\$1,869,000), miscellaneous income (\$3,000) and net savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations and prior-period adjustments (\$1,254,000) in respect of the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, to the support account requirements for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004.