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Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 ([A/69/534](#)). During its consideration of the note, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 26 November 2014.

2. In its resolution 2162 (2014) the Security Council extended the mandate of UNOCI until 30 June 2015 and decided, inter alia, that the Operation's uniformed personnel shall consist of up to 5,437 military personnel, comprising 5,245 troop and staff officers and 192 military observers, by 30 June 2015, and up to 1,500 police personnel, including 500 United Nations police and 1,000 formed police personnel. By its resolution 68/285 on the financing of UNOCI, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of \$493,570,300 for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and assessed on Member States the amount of \$246,785,150, or 50 per cent of the appropriation, for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014. The Secretary-General indicates that the approved budget reflected, inter alia, the expected reduction of military contingents by 1,700 troops by 30 June 2015 and of United Nations police by 55 officers ([A/69/534](#), para. 2).



II. Projected resource requirements for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

3. As indicated in the note by the Secretary-General ([A/69/534](#), paras. 6-7), the total projected requirements for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 are estimated at \$490,692,300 (\$481,974,300) compared with the amount of \$493,570,300 (\$484,674,300) appropriated by the General Assembly, representing a decrease of \$2,878,000 gross (\$2,700,000 net) or 0.6 per cent (see para. 13 below).

4. A summary of the estimated resource requirements under the three expenditure categories of military and police personnel, civilian personnel, and operational costs for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 is provided in the table contained in the note by the Secretary-General. The expenditures incurred under these categories up to 30 September 2014 are included in the information provided to the Advisory Committee. According to the Secretary-General, the reduction in the projected requirements for the maintenance of the Operation during the period is attributable mainly to the projected increase in vacancy rates for all categories of civilian personnel and the reduction of government-provided correction officers from 44 to none as from 30 September 2014, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2162 (2014) ([A/69/534](#), para. 7). According to the note by the Secretary-General and additional information provided to the Advisory Committee, the projected vacancy rates when compared with the corresponding budgeted rates increased for international staff from 10 per cent to 12 per cent; for National Professional Officers, from 12 per cent to 14 per cent; for National General Service staff, from 6 per cent to 8 per cent; and for United Nations Volunteers, from 4 per cent to 6 per cent.

5. As indicated in paragraph 2 above, the Security Council decided that the Operation's uniformed personnel shall consist of up to 5,437 military personnel by 30 June 2015. Upon enquiry the Advisory Committee was provided with a table indicating the military drawdown plan for the financial period 2014/15, which is set out in the annex to the present report.

6. The overall operational costs are projected to decrease from \$130,459,300 (initial appropriation) to \$129,857,400. The overall decrease is offset in part by the increased requirement for military contingents of \$1,400,000 owing to delayed repatriation of the Ghanaian medical unit and its level II hospital as a result of the Ebola crisis in the West African region ([A/69/534](#), para. 8).

7. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General should provide the most up-to-date information to the General Assembly on both the actual and the projected expenditures for the maintenance of UNOCI for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

Support to the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response

8. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that resources had been provided by UNOCI on a cost reimbursable basis to support the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) and, on the same basis, it was further expected that the air fleet from UNOCI will be used to move personnel between mission areas. The resources provided by UNOCI to UNMEER as at 31 October 2014 are set out in table 1.

Table 1
Resources provided by UNOCI to UNMEER as at 31 October 2014

<i>Items of expenditure</i>	<i>Amount (United States dollars)</i>
Official travel	82 210
Vehicles and spare parts	81 635
Communication and information technologies equipment including computers, printers, phones, monitors, VSAT modems, other	362 000
Medical supplies	29 944
Total	555 789

9. Details concerning the personnel deployed for varying durations from UNOCI to UNMEER on temporary duty assignments, provided to the Advisory Committee upon enquiry, are set out in table 2.

Table 2
UNOCI personnel deployed to UNMEER on temporary duty assignments

<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Deployment destination and duration</i>
Chief Integrated Services P-5	Freetown from 22 September to 1 October 2014
Chief Procurement Officer P-4	Accra on 18 September, then to Freetown from 1 October to 18 December 2014
Deputy Chief Integrated Services P-4	Accra from 18 to 20 September 2014
Chief Communications Officer P-3	Accra on 18 September, then to Freetown on 1 October, to Conakry on 5 October, then back to Accra on 17 October (deployment extended to December 2014)
Logistics Assistant FS-4	Freetown from 22 September to 7 December 2014
Receipt and Inspection Assistant FS-4	Accra from 26 September 2014 with no return date set as yet

10. The Advisory Committee has previously discussed the matter of cooperation between missions in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/68/782, paras. 58-72). In particular the Committee recalls that it noted from its review of individual mission budget proposals an increasing tendency towards regional mission cooperation, with specific arrangements in place for common or shared services, as well as a number of Security Council-mandated “inter-mission cooperation” arrangements as a tool to maximize the use of existing assets and resources deployed by missions in nearby countries (ibid., paras. 58-59).

11. The Advisory Committee reiterates that borrowing from active missions is not permitted under General Assembly resolutions (see, for example, para. 23

of resolutions 67/271 and 68/291). All inter-mission cooperation arrangements put in place must respect this fundamental principle. As a consequence, all services, assets and personnel must be funded by the mission where the activity takes place (the receiving mission) and must not be funded by the originating mission, as this would lead to cross-subsidization and would contravene the stipulations of the Assembly. The costs of the services, assets and personnel transferred should, in the view of the Committee, be charged to the receiving mission from the date of transfer. In addition, the Committee stresses that there should be no double budgeting and double assessment of Member States in respect of the same personnel and assets.

12. The Advisory Committee therefore also reiterates its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to prepare clear, transparent and timely reporting of the inter-mission cooperation arrangements and related cost-recovery charges in his future mission budget proposals or other funding arrangements for peacekeeping missions, as well as in the respective performance reports of both originating and receiving missions.

III. Conclusion

13. The Secretary-General indicates that, under the exceptional circumstances addressed in his note, an additional assessment amounting to \$243,907,100 gross (\$239,637,100 net) for the maintenance of the Operation during the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015 is requested, taking into account that the General Assembly in its resolution 68/285 already assessed the amount of \$246,785,150 for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2014 (A/69/534, paras. 10-11) (see para. 3 above).

14. The Advisory Committee requested information regarding earlier instances in which a reduced assessment relative to the appropriation approved by the General Assembly had been proposed. The Committee was informed that the financing arrangements for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, set out in the note by the Secretary-General (A/67/618), constituted such an instance. **The Advisory Committee recalls the specific circumstances and the sequence of events relating to the drawdown of UNMIT and its subsequent closure, and notes that the circumstances and the related request of the Secretary-General in respect of UNOCI are significantly different.**

15. In particular, in regard to UNMIT, the Committee recalls that the Security Council, in its resolution 2037 (2012), decided to extend the mandate of the Mission until 31 December 2012 and endorsed the plan of its phased drawdown, in accordance, inter alia, with the wishes of the Government of Timor-Leste. Subsequently, interlocutors from the Government and State institutions of Timor-Leste presented a unified stance in reiterating the position conveyed by the Prime Minister in his letter of 20 September 2012 to the Secretary-General: that Timor-Leste, upon UNMIT closure, no longer required United Nations support through the presence of either a peacekeeping or a political mission and consequently there was no requirement to continue to be on the Security Council agenda (S/2012/889, para. 12). Accordingly the Security Council adopted no further resolution on this

subject, and UNMIT entered a phase of drawdown and administrative liquidation. In the circumstances noted above, the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to assess an amount of \$10,094,000 gross (\$9,657,100 net) for the period from 1 January to 30 April 2013 for the anticipated administrative liquidation of the Mission, subject to a decision of the Security Council (A/67/618, para. 13). In relation to the apportionment among Member States by the General Assembly (resolution 66/270) of the amount of \$83,818,550 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2013, the assessment requested by the Secretary-General was for a reduced amount and a shorter duration.

16. In the current context of the financing arrangements for UNOCI, as indicated in paragraph 2 above, the Advisory Committee notes that the Security Council extended the mandate of UNOCI until 30 June 2015, which coincides with the end of the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Based on this and its observations in paragraph 14 above, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the request for a reduced assessment made by the Secretary-General relative to the approved appropriation made by the General Assembly for UNOCI is not comparable to such a request made in regard to UNMIT. The Committee therefore considers that the request made by the Secretary-General with regard to UNMIT does not constitute a precedent for the financing arrangements for UNOCI for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015.

17. Considering that the current proposal of the Secretary-General does not constitute a revised budget and taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/285, the Advisory Committee is of the view that it is up to the General Assembly to make a determination as to the required level of assessment for UNOCI for the financial period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

Annex

Planned troop reduction for the 2014/15 financial period for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

	<i>Staff officers</i>	<i>Military observers</i>	<i>Contingents</i>	<i>Total</i>
July 2014	97	192	6 848	7 137
August 2014	97	192	6 848	7 137
September 2014	97	192	6 848	7 137
October 2014	97	192	6 848	7 137
November 2014	97	192	6 018	6 307
December 2014	97	192	6 018	6 307
January 2015	97	192	6 213	6 502
February 2015	97	192	6 213	6 502
March 2015	97	192	5 150	5 439
April 2015	97	192	5 232	5 521
May 2015	97	192	5 232	5 521
June 2015	97	192	5 148	5 437