



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 2017

Original: English

Seventy-second session

Agenda item 136

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Fifteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2018 for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) ([A/72/371/Add.4](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 14 November 2017.

2. The main report of the Secretary-General ([A/72/371](#)) provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2018 for special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. As in previous years, five addenda to the main report cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, UNAMA and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).¹ The Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to all special political missions are contained in its main report ([A/72/7/Add.10](#)), while the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are covered in its related reports.²

¹ [A/72/371/Add.1](#), [A/72/371/Add.2](#), [A/72/371/Add.3](#), [A/72/371/Add.4](#) and [A/72/371/Add.5](#).

² [A/72/7/Add.11](#), [A/72/7/Add.12](#), [A/72/7/Add.13](#), [A/72/7/Add.14](#) and [A/72/7/Add.15](#).



3. The budget proposals of the Secretary-General for the Panel of Experts on Mali (cluster II), the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (both under cluster III) are contained in separate addenda³ and the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee are contained in its related reports.⁴

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that a biennial provision of \$1,109.6 million for special political missions was included in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019, representing a reduction of \$14.8 million compared with the amount of \$1,124.4 million provided for in the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2018–2019 (see General Assembly resolution 71/274). The Secretary-General attributes the reduction of \$14.8 million to planned efficiency gains across all special political missions, as part of the reductions of \$58.9 million under “other changes” in the proposed programme budget. The Committee recalls that it requested, but was not provided with, a consolidated list of the reductions categorized under other resource changes across all budget sections, along with an explanation of how they were to be achieved and the extent to which they could be considered efficiencies. The Committee made comments in this regard in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (see A/72/7, chap. I). In this connection, the Committee notes that no reductions pertaining to Umoja (the enterprise resource planning system) or other efficiencies are reported for the special political missions for 2018, except for an amount of \$698,900 for UNAMA (see A/72/371, para. 111). The comments and recommendations of the Committee on the level of the biennial provision proposed by the Secretary-General will be included in its main report (A/72/7/Add.10).

II. Budget performance for 2016–2017 and resource requirements for 2018

A. Budget performance for 2016–2017

5. For the biennium 2016–2017, expenditures through 31 December 2017 are projected at \$346,535,200, compared with the appropriation of \$347,427,600 for the biennium, leading to a projected unencumbered balance of \$892,400 (see A/72/371/Add.4, table 2). A summary of significant variances between the 2016–2017 appropriation and projected expenditures for the Mission is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General.

B. Mandate and planning assumptions for 2018

6. The mandate of the Mission was extended by the Security Council in its resolution 2344 (2017) until 17 March 2018. The Secretary-General indicates that Afghanistan continues to face significant political, security and economic challenges, which are expected to last into 2018. The Mission’s priorities and planning assumptions for 2018 and cooperation with other entities are described in paragraphs 13–23 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General also indicates that UNAMA field offices will remain critical to the implementation of the Mission mandate at the local level (ibid., para. 23).

³ A/72/371/Add.6, A/72/371/Add.7 and A/72/371/Add.8.

⁴ A/72/7/Add.16, A/72/7/Add.17 and A/72/7/Add.18.

7. The Secretary-General indicates that Security Council resolution [2344 \(2017\)](#) and the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his special report on the strategic review of UNAMA ([A/72/312-S/2017/696](#)) of 10 August 2017 form the basis of the Mission's strategic priorities, and that in the context of the strategic review, UNAMA, in close cooperation with the wider United Nations system, will shift its focus from supporting a post-conflict peacebuilding agenda to supporting an Afghan-owned peace process that includes eventual direct negotiations with the Taliban. In the special report on the strategic review, it is indicated that the recommendations arising from the review are calibrated to prepare the United Nations engagement until the end of 2020, the same time frame as for commitments to financial and military assistance made at the summits held in 2016 in Brussels and Warsaw, thereby contributing to a coherent international engagement in Afghanistan (*ibid.*, para. 3). The recommendations emerge from the main finding, that Afghanistan is not in a post-conflict situation, where sufficient stability exists to focus on institution-building and development-oriented activities, but a country undergoing a conflict that shows few signs of abating (*ibid.*, para. 9).

8. In the strategic review, it is asserted that the added value of the United Nations has been through its recognition as an impartial actor, in particular its convening power in terms of access to all political stakeholders. It is indicated that it is likely that the Mission will be called upon to act as an impartial mediator between various competing interests within the Government, between the Government and its armed opposition and within the region (*ibid.*, para. 20). It is also indicated that the emphasis on peace and conflict prevention will require some changes in the Mission's configuration, with renewed prominence given to supporting peace efforts in all of the Mission's substantive functions (*ibid.*, para. 24).

9. In line with the recommendations in the special report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review, the abolishment of four units is proposed, namely, the Rule of Law Unit, the Governance Unit, the Military Advisory Unit and the Police Advisory Unit (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), paras. 24–29). The closure of the provincial office in Farah and the nationalization of the provincial office in Badakhshan Province are also indicated. The Secretary-General indicates that, in terms of changes to the Mission's configuration, it is proposed in the special report on the strategic review that the support services of UNAMA be further streamlined to enhance service delivery while remaining cost neutral, and that the arrangement cover the areas of operations and resource management, supply chain management, and service delivery (*ibid.*, para. 21).

10. While UNAMA is not proposing resources which may be required to enhance security retrofitting of existing premises, or acquiring alternative property in Kabul, the Secretary-General indicates that following the explosion of a very large vehicle-borne improvised explosive device on the edge of the diplomatic quarter in Kabul on 31 May 2017, UNAMA contracted the services of a vendor to conduct blast vulnerability assessments of its properties in Kabul and that the outcome of the assessments may result in substantial security investments (*ibid.*, para. 30). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that since the finalization of the estimates for 2018, the blast vulnerability assessment reports of two of the three compounds in Kabul had been received, indicating that relocation and additional funding might not be required at this time. However, the Committee was also informed that owing to the increasing vulnerability of compounds outside the "Green Zone", additional financial investment might be required to relocate to safer areas.

C. Resource requirements for 2018

11. As shown in table 1 ([A/72/371/Add.4](#), table 2), the resource requirements proposed for 2018 for UNAMA amount to \$140,423,700 (net), representing a

decrease of \$23,759,600, or 16.9 per cent, compared with the resources approved for 2017. A summary of the main factors contributing to the variances between the approved resources for 2017 and the proposed resources for 2018 is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General.

Table 1

Total resource requirements (net of staff assessment)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	2016–2017			Requirements for 2018		Approved budget 2017	Variance increase/(decrease) 2017–2018
	Appropriation	Estimated expenditure ^a	Variance	Total	Non-recurrent		
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(2)-(1)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(4)-(6)
Military and police personnel	1 473.8	1 065.1	(408.7)	44.2	–	752.5	(708.3)
Civilian personnel	230 044.0	234 327.1	4 283.1	92 383.3	–	106 536.7	(14 153.4)
Operational	115 909.8	111 143.0	(4 766.8)	47 996.2	2 259.0	56 894.1	(8 897.9)
Total requirements	347 427.6	346 535.2	(892.4)	140 423.7	2 259.0	164 183.3	(23 759.6)

^a Actual expenditure as at 31 August 2017 and projections for the remainder of the year.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that in making the proposal for 2018, the Secretary-General has endeavoured to ensure that the reduction in staffing does not have a negative impact on the security of staff, the Mission premises or the implementation of the mandate.

1. Military and police personnel

13. The estimated requirements for military and police personnel for 2018 amount to \$44,200, representing a reduction of \$708,300 compared with the appropriation for 2017. The variance reflects, in the context of the strategic review, a reduction in the number of military advisers from 12 in 2017 to 1 in 2018 and the proposed discontinuation of the engagement of all five police advisers assigned to the Mission (ibid., paras. 92–99).

2. Civilian personnel

Table 2

Staffing requirements

	Positions	Level
Approved positions for 2017	1 529	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 8 D-1, 27 P-5, 72 P-4, 71 P-3, 17 P-2, 156 FS, 1 GS (OL), 170 NPO, 942 LL, 61 UNV
Proposed positions for 2018	1 238	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 28 P-5, 55 P-4, 61 P-3, 7 P-2, 144 FS, 1 GS (OL), 125 NPO, 738 LL, 68 UNV
Proposed new positions	37	1 D-1, 4 P-5, 2 P-4, 5 P-3, 9 NPO, 4 LL, 12 UNV
Proposed abolishments	328	2 D-1, 3 P-5, 19 P-4, 15 P-3, 10 P-2, 12 FS, 55 NPO, 207 LL, 5 UNV

Abbreviations: USG, Under-Secretary-General; ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; UNV, United Nations Volunteer.

14. A summary of the staffing requirements and the proposed changes is contained in paragraph 47 and tables 4 and 5 of the budget document. The total proposed staffing of 1,238 positions, including 307 international positions (162 Professional, 144 Field Service and 1 General Service (Other level)), 863 national positions (125

National Professional Officer and 738 Local level) and 68 United Nations Volunteers, represents a net reduction of 291 positions compared with the approved staffing for 2017 (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), table 3). Organization charts showing the proposed staffing grades and levels are contained in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General. The proposed allocation of the positions by location is contained in table 5 of the report of the Secretary-General and is summarized as follows:

- (a) UNAMA headquarters in Kabul (773 positions);
- (b) Six regional offices (274 positions);
- (c) Five provincial offices (137 positions);
- (d) UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait and Kuwait Joint Support Office (40 positions) (see paras. 32–34 below);
- (e) Liaison offices in Islamabad and Tehran (9 positions);
- (f) Backstopping at Headquarters (5 positions).

15. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed staffing changes include: (a) the abolishment of 328 positions, comprising 49 Professional, 12 Field Service, 55 National Professional Officer, 207 Local level and 5 United Nations Volunteer positions (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), tables 4 and 5 and paras. 105, 113 and 118); and (b) the establishment of 37 positions, comprising 12 Professional, 9 National Professional Officer, 4 Local level and 12 United Nations Volunteer positions (ibid.).

Vacancy rates and vacant positions

16. The Secretary-General provides details of the estimated vacancy rates used in the cost estimates for 2018 for international staff at 9 per cent and National Professional Officers at 5 per cent (ibid., paras. 100 and 107). The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information relating to the approved vacancy rate for 2017, the actual average vacancy rates for the period from January to September 2017 and the actual rate as at 30 September 2017. The Committee notes that the actual average vacancy rates for the period from January to September 2017 and the actual rate as at 30 September 2017 were 10.5 per cent and 11.0 per cent for international staff and 8.0 per cent and 9.5 per cent for National Professional Officers, respectively. **Taking into account the vacancy rates experienced during 2017, the Committee recommends that vacancy rates of 10.5 per cent and 8.0 per cent be applied to the cost estimates for international staff and National Professional Officers, respectively, for 2018.**

Vacant posts

17. The Advisory Committee was provided with information relating to six positions (1 D-1, 1 P-3 and 3 Local level) that had been vacant for over two years as at 30 September 2017. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that of the six positions, five were proposed for abolishment, and for the remaining position, the candidate was onboarding. After requesting further clarification, the Committee was informed that two of the Local level positions were under recruitment, but no details were provided regarding the stage of the recruitment process. **The Committee reiterates the view that, as a matter of overall policy, the continuing requirement for posts that have been vacant for two years or longer should be reviewed and their retention justified. Considering that one Local level position (Human Rights Assistant) has been vacant since 1 August 2014, while the other Local level position has been vacant since 10 July 2015, the Committee recommends the abolishment of both positions. Related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

Donor Coordination Section

18. The Secretary-General proposes the creation of a Donor Coordination Section as part of the proposed organizational changes within the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Development) in order to, *inter alia*: consolidate donor coordination functions; improve the capacity of the Mission to support the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Board; aid policy discussions and coherence among donors, between donors and the Government, and with stakeholders, including civil society; and support peacebuilding approaches across United Nations programming at the national and subnational levels, with a particular focus on alignment, particularly in support of an eventual future peace agreement (*ibid.*, para. 60 (e) (i)).

19. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of four positions, namely, one P-5 (Senior Programme Officer), one P-3 (Humanitarian Affairs Officer) and two National Professional Officer (one Assistant Programme Management Officer, one Associate Civil Affairs Officer); and the redeployment of three positions, namely, one P-4 (Coordination Officer) and one P-3 (Civil Affairs Officer) from the Front Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and one P-4 (Judicial Affairs Officer) from the regional office in Kabul (*ibid.*, para. 60 (e) (ii)–(iii)). The proposed staffing of the Section will total seven Professional positions.

20. Upon enquiry as to the rationale for the creation of the Donor Coordination Section, the Committee was informed that pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution [2344 \(2017\)](#), UNAMA would continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts and to promote coherent support by the international community for the development and governance priorities of the Government of Afghanistan. The Committee was also informed that in the strategic review, it was recommended that the Mission's coordination function be enhanced while other units be streamlined. The Committee notes that the coordination function may be considered an extension of the function of leading and coordinating international civilian efforts and promoting more coherent support by the international community for the development and governance priorities of the Government of Afghanistan. **The Committee considers that, given the existing resources to be deployed to the Section, the need for the additional three posts proposed for establishment is not convincing. The Committee recommends against the establishment of one P-5 (Senior Programme Officer), one P-3 (Humanitarian Affairs Officer) and one National Professional Officer (Assistant Programme Management Officer). Any related non-post resources should be adjusted accordingly.**

Gender Advisory Unit

21. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of a Gender Advisory Unit in the context of the strategic review and consistent with Security Council resolution [2242 \(2015\)](#) on women and peace and security, as well as the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (*ibid.*, para. 53 (e)). The proposed establishment of the Unit would align the Mission with other special political missions and would enable UNAMA to address issues related to promoting women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and political processes, and improve women's representation in governance structure. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of three positions, namely, one P-5 (Senior Gender Adviser) to lead the work of the Unit; and one P-3 (Gender Affairs Officer) and one Local level (Programme Management Assistant) to carry out gender related activities (*ibid.*).

22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the gender advisory capacity of the Mission (currently located in the Human Rights Service) has been implementing the Mission mandates on gender equality; women and peace and security; women's rights; and the implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women. In the strategic review, the redeployment of the gender advisory capacity from the Human Rights Service to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General was recommended. **The Committee notes that the budget document of the Secretary-General did not clearly contain any proposal to that effect.** Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that with regard to the division of functions between the Human Rights Service and the proposed Gender Advisory Unit in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Human Rights Service would retain the women's rights portfolio with a focus on the elimination of violence against women, while the Gender Advisory Unit would be responsible for the gender and women and peace and security portfolio in the context of Security Council resolution 2242 (2015).

23. **In view of the foregoing, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide clarification on the redeployment of the gender advisory capacity as recommended in the strategic review at the time of its consideration of the report. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly take this information into account in deciding on the staffing capacity of the Human Rights Service and the Gender Advisory Unit.**

Loan of positions

24. The Advisory Committee recalls that in his report, the Secretary-General proposed staffing changes that included the proposal to modify the approved staffing table in line with the actual deployment of positions on the ground, resulting in the "regularization" of 184 existing positions that were intended to be loaned temporarily to other organizational units following a comprehensive review of the overall staffing requirements in 2016. The Committee expressed concern at the high number of loan arrangements and regret that the necessary adjustments to the staffing table had not been made on an annual basis within the context of the budget process, given the long-standing existence of many temporary positions, and that those movements of staff had not been reported for an extensive period of time. The Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with confirmation that the Mission had implemented the required regularization of positions and ensured stricter discipline in the loan of positions among organizational units.⁵ **The Committee notes the efforts made by the Mission in resolving the issue of loaned positions.**

25. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's staffing proposals for 2018 for UNAMA, subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 16, 17 and 20 above.**

3. Operational costs

26. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2018 amount to \$47,996,200, reflecting a decrease of \$8,897,900, or 18.5 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$56,894,100 for 2017. The reductions in facilities and infrastructure costs of \$3,211,900 and in air transportation costs of \$3,455,500 account for the majority of the decrease. The Secretary-General indicates a redistribution of the functional areas overseen by the Chief and Deputy Chief of Mission Support and Chief of Supply Chain Management, the establishment of an Acquisition Planning Unit and a General Supply and Fuel Unit and the rationale for the revised concept of

⁵ The Committee was informed that of the 184 loaned positions, 2 positions remained on loan.

air operations and the maintenance of existing operational and support requirements (ibid., paras. 21 and 28).

Security services

27. A detailed breakdown of the proposed security services, including the number and location of guards and the total cost of each category, is provided in annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General in response to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (see [A/70/7/Add.14](#), para. 33). The estimated cost of security for 2018 amounts to \$11,069,700. The Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraph 10 above, the increasing vulnerability of compounds outside the “Green Zone” may result in additional requirements related to security in the future. **The Committee acknowledges the efforts made by the Mission to provide the information, given the need for greater transparency, and trusts that in the light of the significance of the budget allocated to security services, the detailed information relating to the resource requirements in respect of security services will be included in future budget submissions for UNAMA.**

Consultants

28. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the requirements for consultants (\$194,400) reflect the engagement of consultants for the provision of technical and specialized expertise with respect to non-training activities carried out to support substantive areas of the Mission (\$86,400) and training activities for Mission personnel (\$108,000) (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), para. 119). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the non-training activities relate to conflict analysis and conflict dynamics (\$60,000), peacebuilding and development (\$14,640) and service delivery in fragile and conflict-affected environments (\$11,760). The Committee was also informed that the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General proposes consultancy requirements for media training in an evolving new media landscape (\$20,000). The Committee was provided with additional details relating to the requirements and notes that existing and proposed staff capacity would appear to be able to meet the requirements indicated under non-training activities. The Committee notes that information-gathering and analysis with regard to the consultancy on conflict analysis and conflict dynamics, as well as the synthesis of data and research with regard to the effects of conflict on peacebuilding and service delivery, are all activities that may be conducted with existing capacity. The Committee is also not convinced of the need for media training, given that technical and knowledge support in relation to the media landscape may be provided by available resources within the Organization (see annex). **The Committee reiterates its view that, while recognizing that the use of external consultants may be necessary to acquire specialized expertise not readily available in-house, reliance on the use of external consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum. The Committee therefore recommends against the proposal for the resources for non-training activities in the amount of \$86,400, and recommends a reduction of \$20,000 for training activities. The Committee recommends approval of the remaining consultancy requirements, amounting to \$88,006.**

Ground transportation

29. The provision for ground transportation is estimated at \$1,016,600 and reflects the requirements for the ground transportation fleet of the Mission, which comprises 260 vehicles, including 3 light passenger vehicles, 13 special purpose vehicles, 234 armoured vehicles (including 10 ambulances), 9 items of material handling equipment, and 1 aircraft towing tractor (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), para. 129). The

Advisory Committee recalls that the UNAMA vehicle fleet comprised 284 vehicles in the 2017 budget proposal (see [A/71/365/Add.4](#), para. 238). The Committee notes that the reduction in requirements reflects the reduced requirements for the repair and maintenance of vehicles, but does not appear to reflect the reductions in the transportation fleet, which should result in further cost reductions in repairs, spare parts acquisitions and petrol, oil and lubricants. **The Committee recommends that a reduction of 5 per cent, in the amount of \$50,800, be applied to the proposed resource requirements for ground transportation. The Committee therefore recommends approval of the remaining ground transportation requirements, amounting to \$965,800.**

Travel

30. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that the resource requirements for official travel amount to \$1,482,500, which reflect requirements for official travel to carry out non-training (\$1,133,300) and training (\$349,200) activities (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), para. 122). Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information relating to the travel requirements of UNAMA, and notes a number of discrepancies in the information provided, including probable overestimation of air fare rates and lack of consideration for savings arising from the advance booking of predictable travel requirements. The Committee provides its comments and recommendations regarding travel resources in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/72/7/Add.10](#)).

31. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 17, 20, 28 and 29 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals relating to operational requirements.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Support Office in Kuwait and Kuwait Joint Support Office

32. Information on the cost-sharing arrangements and collaboration in support areas with respect to the Kuwait Joint Support Office financed under the budget for UNAMA is provided in paragraphs 78–82 of the report of the Secretary-General. The resource requirements for the component of the Office financed under the budget for UNAMI are contained in the budget estimates for UNAMI (see [A/72/371/Add.5](#)).

33. The staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for the Kuwait Joint Support Office for UNAMA remain unchanged, at 39 positions. In terms of the staffing of the UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait, the Secretary-General proposes a reduction from three positions to one position, as follows: (a) abolishment of one position of Security Officer (Field Service) in the Security Section; and (b) abolishment of one position of Security Guard (Local level) in the Security Section. The remaining P-5 position in the UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait is part of the Integrated Conduct and Discipline Unit and will continue to report directly to the Section chief, located in Kabul (see [A/72/371/Add.4](#), para. 78), thereby maintaining distinct reporting lines and accountability within UNAMA.

34. The Advisory Committee continues to note the lack of clarity with regard to the structures, functions and capacity of the UNAMA Support Office in Kuwait and the Kuwait Joint Support Office and the rationale for maintaining a support office with one post. In this connection, the Committee continues to question the ongoing validity of maintaining separate structures in Kuwait with distinct reporting lines and accountabilities to UNAMA (see [A/69/628/Add.2](#), para. 25, [A/70/7/Add.14](#), paras. 24–26, and [A/71/595/Add.4](#), para. 25). The

Committee provides its comments and recommendations regarding the Kuwait Joint Support Office in its main report on special political missions ([A/72/7/Add.10](#)).

III. Recommendation

35. The Secretary-General's budgetary proposals for the special political missions for 2018 which require action to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 120 of his main report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council ([A/72/371](#)).

36. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposal for the resource requirements for 2018 for UNAMA, subject to the comments and recommendations above, as well as those in its main report ([A/72/7/Add.10](#)).

Annex

Non-training and training consultancy requirements of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Non-training

<i>Requesting organizational unit</i>	<i>Area of expertise</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Description of services</i>
Political Affairs Service	Conflict analysis and conflict dynamics	60 000	(a) Gathering information and carrying out analysis on regional cooperation; (b) gathering information and carrying out analysis on subnational political developments; and (c) gathering information and carrying out analysis on conflict development and dynamics on the ground. This is further to the abolishment in recent years of certain field offices and in order to maintain and continue geographical reach and understanding of areas in Afghanistan that are inaccessible for UNAMA staff for security reasons.
Donor Coordination Section	Peacebuilding and development	14 640	Synthesizing existing data and research on the links between peacebuilding and development in Afghanistan, drawing on applicable research from other conflict-affected/fragile environments and supporting the Mission in establishing baseline data, policy and operational guidance for implementing suitable peacebuilding approaches across United Nations programming at the national and subnational levels, with a particular focus on alignment, particularly in support of an eventual future peace agreement (see A/72/312-S/2017/696 , para. 44).
	Service delivery in fragile and conflict-affected environments	11 760	In recognition of the main finding in the strategic review, that Afghanistan is a country undergoing a conflict that shows few signs of abating, the consultant will assist the Mission by synthesizing existing data and research on the effects of conflict on service delivery and poverty reduction in Afghanistan, drawing on applicable research from other conflict-affected/fragile environments and supporting the Mission in providing strategic advice to the Government and international partners on advancing reform and development priorities in an environment of continuing conflict.
Total		86 400	

Training

<i>Requesting organizational unit</i>	<i>Area of expertise</i>	<i>Cost (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Description of services</i>
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General	Technical knowledge and skills	20 000	The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat is currently in the process of codifying social media practices in an updated operational policy that will address the evolving new media landscape, rather than focusing merely on mainstream media. The terms of reference for social media training are in recognition of the request by the Department that missions more fully leverage social media platforms and the interest of the Special Representative in positioning UNAMA as both forward-thinking and progressive in engaging national and international interlocutors.
Total		20 000	