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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Revised estimates relating to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization under section 5, Peacekeeping operations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to the adoption by the Security Council of its resolutions [2361 \(2017\)](#) and [2394 \(2017\)](#).

In paragraph 7 of its resolution [2361 \(2017\)](#) and paragraph 7 of its resolution [2394 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council welcomed the initial and limited return of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force contingent to Camp Faouar, as well as the cooperation of the parties to facilitate this return, together with continued efforts to plan for the Force's expeditious return to vacated positions in the area of separation, including the commencement of limited patrols around Camp Faouar and the provision of adequate force protection, based on a continuous assessment of security in the area.

In line with the above-mentioned Security Council resolutions, the present report contains the revised estimates proposed for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization under section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, in the additional amount of \$2,315,400.



I. Introduction

1. In his progress report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) of 5 June 1974 ([S/11310](#)), the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of the transfer of 90 United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) military observers deployed in the area to UNDOF, which had been established by the Security Council in its resolution 350 (1974). In subsequent reports on UNDOF, the Secretary-General referred to UNTSO military observers assigned to UNDOF to assist in the implementation of its mandate, prescribed in the Disengagement of Forces Agreement of 1974. The UNTSO military observers in UNDOF serve in Observer Group Golan under the operational control of the UNDOF Force Commander. Observer Group Golan maintains five fixed and four temporary observation posts in the UNDOF area of operations in support of UNDOF activities. The UNTSO Chief of Staff maintains administrative command, including responsibility for the administrative aspects of Observer Group Golan, such as training and deployment of the military observers, provision of their equipment, and maintenance, refurbishment and reconstruction of their observation posts.

2. UNDOF and Observer Group Golan temporarily withdrew from some of their positions on the Bravo side in 2014 owing to the deterioration of the security situation. The goal for UNDOF, supported by Observer Group Golan, is its full return to the positions vacated. UNDOF continues to implement its plan for the Force and observers to return gradually to the Bravo side. The return of UNDOF and Observer Group Golan involves the rehabilitation and rebuilding of their positions and facilities at Camp Faouar and the enhancement of force protection.

3. In its resolutions [2361 \(2017\)](#) and [2394 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council welcomed the initial and limited return of UNDOF to Camp Faouar on the Bravo side and the continued efforts to plan for the Force's expeditious return to vacated positions in the area of separation, including the commencement of limited patrols around Camp Faouar and the provision of adequate force protection, based on a continuous assessment of security in the area.

4. Observer Group Golan has long conducted mandated observation activities on the Golan. With the escalation of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2014, UNDOF needed to withdraw temporarily from observation posts and from other positions, curtailing the majority of operations in the areas of separation and limitation on the Bravo side monitored under the Disengagement of Forces Agreement. Owing to the rapid withdrawal, the UNDOF Camp Faouar headquarters and Observer Group Golan observation posts were left unprotected, with considerable loss of equipment and facility damage.

5. Following recent security improvements on the Golan, the UNDOF technical assessment carried out with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support (integrated planning team) on the resumption of activities on the Bravo side determined that conditions on the ground would permit the accelerated return of the observers to the area of activity. As the security situation now allows for the gradual resumption of operations by UNDOF and Observer Group Golan, observation posts 71 and 72 in the area of separation have been identified as initial priorities to enable observation activities to recommence.

6. The General Assembly by its resolution [72/263 A](#) on the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, appropriated the total amount of \$67,161,300 for UNTSO for the biennium 2018–2019. Owing to the timeline for consideration of the UNTSO budget proposal and the uncertainty of future security conditions at the time, the resource requirements for the return to Camp Faouar were not included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. Accordingly, the new

requirements for the observers to gradually resume operations on the Bravo side are being sought in the present report.

II. Relationship of the current proposals to the biennial programme plan and programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

7. The current proposals relate to programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018–2019 ([A/71/6/Rev.1](#)) and to section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

8. The objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and external factors as included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (see [A/72/6 \(Sect. 5\)](#) and [A/72/6 \(Sect. 5\)/Corr.1](#)) remain unchanged.

9. The proposed resource requirements for the implementation of the gradual return of Observer Group Golan to the Bravo side as envisaged under the second and third phases of the UNDOF plan amount to \$2,315,400. The requested resources relate to the rebuilding of observation posts 71 and 72, as well as the one-time purchase of information technology and communications equipment, observation equipment and office accommodation, furniture and equipment for observation posts 71 and 72, as well as for Observer Group Golan, UNTSO headquarters and Camp Faouar.

10. Owing to the operational developments in the Syrian-controlled Golan (Bravo side) and increasing government recovery of and stabilization efforts in the UNDOF area of responsibility, operational activities in the areas of separation and limitation are projected to increase as the security situation improves, including an increase in mobile patrols by Observer Group Golan and UNDOF in the area of limitation. Joint Observer Group Golan and UNDOF patrolling is being increased from one to two patrols per week during the third quarter of 2018, and to three patrols per week in the fourth quarter. In 2019, patrols are projected to increase to four per week in the first six months, doubling to eight per week in the second six months.

11. The additional outputs to be delivered from the gradual return of Observer Group Golan to the Bravo side of the Golan during the biennium 2018–2019 are reflected in table 1.

Table 1
Categories of outputs and final outputs

<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Other substantive activities (regular budget)	
Good offices, fact-finding and other special missions:	
1. Static observations: daily observations from 2 observation posts on the Bravo side with 3 military observers each from Observer Group Golan (number of man-days)	1 095
2. Mobile operations for area familiarization training and patrols in the Bravo side area of operations for Observer Group Golan (number of patrol-man-days)	754
3. Inspections and investigations on the Bravo side for Observer Group Golan	24

III. Resource requirements

12. Additional resource requirements for the proposals contained in the present report for the biennium 2018–2019 under section 5, Peacekeeping operations, amount

to \$2,315,400, as summarized in tables 2 and 3 by component and by object of expenditure.

Table 2
Resource requirements by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Regular budget</i>	<i>2018–2019 initial appropriation</i>	<i>Additional requirements for 2018–2019</i>	<i>2018–2019 revised estimates</i>
Department of Peacekeeping Operations	10 495.4	–	10 495.4
Department of Field Support	8 291.0	–	8 291.0
United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	67 161.3	2 315.4	69 476.7
United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	19 754.4	–	19 754.4
Total (net of staff assessment)	105 702.1	2 315.4	108 017.5

13. The distribution of resources for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization is reflected in table 3.

Table 3
Resource requirements for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2018–2019 initial appropriation</i>	<i>Additional requirements for 2019</i>	<i>2018–2019 revised estimates</i>
Posts	43 743.2	–	43 743.2
Other staff costs	13 891.5	187.9	14 079.4
Travel of staff	600.7	26.4	627.1
Contractual services	658.5	8.5	667.0
General operating expenses	4 938.0	11.7	4 949.7
Hospitality	13.3	–	13.3
Supplies and materials	1 151.3	138.4	1 289.7
Furniture and equipment	1 346.4	669.9	2 016.3
Improvement of premises	818.4	1 272.6	2 091.0
Total	67 161.3	2 315.4	69 476.7

14. The amount of \$2,315,400 would provide for non-post requirements to support the gradual resumption of observation activities on the Bravo side of the Golan for the biennium 2018–2019 through the construction of accommodation and office space in Camp Faouar, logistical support and the deployment of observers.

15. The proposed resources would provide for other staff costs for the payment of mission subsistence allowance for 9 military observers based in Lebanon who would move to the Bravo side in 2019 (\$187,900); travel of staff for the supervision of the construction of the communication towers of the two observation posts on the Bravo side (\$26,400); contractual services for centrally provided support for office automation equipment at Camp Faouar and observation posts 71 and 72 (\$8,500); general operating expenses for commercial communications services, such as local and long-distance telephone, mobile data, satellite mobile charges and Internet

connectivity (\$11,700); supplies and materials, including petrol, oil and lubricants for UNTSO vehicles, to be used mainly for Observer Group Golan mobile patrol activities on the Bravo side, four generators at observation posts 71 and 72, data processing, consumable supplies, telecommunications equipment supplies and operational equipment supplies (\$138,400); furniture and equipment, including the replacement of communications equipment, observation equipment, office furniture and equipment, and safety and security equipment (\$669,900); and improvement of premises for the reconstruction of observation posts 71 and 72 (\$1,272,600).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

16. The General Assembly is requested:

(a) To approve the additional resources proposed in the amount of \$2,315,400 for UNTSO;

(b) To appropriate an additional amount of \$2,315,400 (net of staff assessment) for UNTSO under section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

Organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2018–2019

