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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hicham **Oussihamou** (Morocco)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 33rd and 41st meetings, on 6 May and 3 July 2019. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/627](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/735](#));

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/73/755/Add.2](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.31](#)

4. At its 38th meeting, on 22 May, the observer of the Observer State of Palestine, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into

¹ [A/C.5/73/SR.33](#) and [A/C.5/73/SR.41](#).



account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 73/5 of 16 October 2018, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon” (A/C.5/73/L.31).

5. At its 41st meeting, on 3 July, the observer of the Observer State of Palestine, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, orally amended the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraphs 1 and 11, the reference to the cross-cutting resolution for the seventy-third session would be deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 10, the phrase “subject to the provisions of the present resolution,” would be inserted after the words “Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions”;

(c) After operative paragraph 10, three new paragraphs would be added, reading:

“Takes note of paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) post;”

“Emphasizes the importance of overall budgetary performance in peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement the recommendations of the relevant oversight bodies and to report thereon in the context of the performance reports;”

“Also emphasizes the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen risk management and internal controls in the management of peacekeeping budgets and to report thereon in the context of his next report;”

(d) Operative paragraph 23 would be deleted;

and the paragraphs of the draft resolution would be renumbered accordingly.

6. At the same meeting, on behalf of the Chair, the Secretary read out amendments to the draft resolution, by which:

(a) In existing operative paragraph 15, the figure 512,142,000 would be inserted before the words “dollars for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020”, the figure 480,102,600 before the words “dollars for the maintenance of the Force”, the figure 27,194,200 before the words “dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations” and the figure 4,845,200 before the words “dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy”;

(b) In existing operative paragraph 16, the figure 85,357,000 would be inserted before the words “dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2019”;

(c) In existing operative paragraph 17, the figure 2,583,000 would be inserted after the words “their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of”, the figure 2,174,950 before the words “dollars approved for the Force”, the figure 322,720 before the words “dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account” and the figure 85,330 before the words “dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base”;

(d) In existing operative paragraph 18, the figure 426,785,000 would be inserted before the words “dollars for the period from 1 September 2019 to 30 June 2020” and the figure 42,678,500 after the words “at a monthly rate of”;

(e) In existing operative paragraph 19, the figure 12,915,000 would be inserted after the words “their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of”, the figure 10,874,750 before the words “dollars approved for the Force”, the figure

1,613,580 before the words “dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account” and the figure 426,670 before the words “dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base”.

7. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement and orally proposed an amendment to the draft resolution to delete the fourth preambular paragraph and existing operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution.

8. Also at the 41st meeting, statements were made on the draft resolution by the representative of the United States of America and the observer of the Observer State of Palestine, on behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the proposed amendment to delete the fourth preambular paragraph and existing operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 by a recorded vote of 84 to 3, with 52 abstentions. The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic People’s Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.31](#) as orally amended, as a whole, without a vote (see para. 12).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the European Union) and Lebanon.

² The delegation of Panama subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Recalling Security Council resolution [425 \(1978\)](#) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution [2433 \(2018\)](#) of 30 August 2018, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2019,

Recalling also its resolution [S-8/2](#) of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution [72/299](#) of 5 July 2018, as well as its decision [72/558](#) of 5 July 2018,

Reaffirming its resolutions [51/233](#) of 13 June 1997, [52/237](#) of 26 June 1998, [53/227](#) of 8 June 1999, [54/267](#) of 15 June 2000, [55/180 A](#) of 19 December 2000, [55/180 B](#) of 14 June 2001, [56/214 A](#) of 21 December 2001, [56/214 B](#) of 27 June 2002, [57/325](#) of 18 June 2003, [58/307](#) of 18 June 2004, [59/307](#) of 22 June 2005, [60/278](#) of 30 June 2006, [61/250 A](#) of 22 December 2006, [61/250 B](#) of 2 April 2007, [61/250 C](#) of 29 June 2007, [62/265](#) of 20 June 2008, [63/298](#) of 30 June 2009, [64/282](#) of 24 June 2010, [65/303](#) of 30 June 2011, [66/277](#) of 21 June 2012, [67/279](#) of 28 June 2013, [68/292](#) of 30 June 2014, [69/302](#) of 25 June 2015, [70/280](#) of 17 June 2016, [71/307](#) of 30 June 2017 and [72/299](#),

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and [55/235](#) of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#) of 22 June 2005, [60/266](#) of 30 June 2006, [61/276](#) of 29 June 2007, [64/269](#) of 24 June 2010, [65/289](#) of 30 June 2011, [66/264](#) of 21 June 2012, [69/307](#) of 25 June 2015 and [70/286](#) of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2019, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 85 million United States dollars, representing some 1 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 80 Member States have paid their

¹ [A/73/627](#) and [A/73/735](#).

² [A/73/755/Add.2](#).

assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with resolutions [51/233](#), [52/237](#), [53/227](#), [54/267](#), [55/180 A](#), [55/180 B](#), [56/214 A](#), [56/214 B](#), [57/325](#), [58/307](#), [59/307](#), [60/278](#), [61/250 A](#), [61/250 B](#), [61/250 C](#), [62/265](#), [63/298](#), [64/282](#), [65/303](#), [66/277](#), [67/279](#), [68/292](#), [69/302](#), [70/280](#), [71/307](#) and [72/299](#);

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by resolutions [51/233](#), [52/237](#), [53/227](#), [54/267](#), [55/180 A](#), [55/180 B](#), [56/214 A](#), [56/214 B](#), [57/325](#), [58/307](#), [59/307](#), [60/278](#), [61/250 A](#), [61/250 B](#), [61/250 C](#), [62/265](#), [63/298](#), [64/282](#), [65/303](#), [66/277](#), [67/279](#), [68/292](#), [69/302](#), [70/280](#), [71/307](#) and [72/299](#);

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

8. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

11. *Takes note* of paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to establish the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) post;]

12. *Emphasises* the importance of overall budgetary performance in peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement the recommendations of the relevant oversight bodies and to report thereon in the context of the performance reports;

13. *Also emphasizes* the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen risk management and internal controls in the management of peacekeeping budgets and to report thereon in the context of his next report;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#), [60/266](#), [61/276](#), [64/269](#), [65/289](#), [66/264](#), [69/307](#) and [70/286](#);

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

16. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of resolution [51/233](#), paragraph 5 of resolution [52/237](#), paragraph 11 of resolution [53/227](#), paragraph 14 of resolution [54/267](#), paragraph 14 of resolution [55/180 A](#), paragraph 15 of resolution

55/180 B, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of resolution 61/250 C, paragraph 21 of resolution 62/265, paragraph 19 of resolution 63/298, paragraph 18 of resolution 64/282, paragraph 15 of resolution 65/303, paragraph 13 of resolution 66/277, paragraph 13 of resolution 67/279, paragraph 13 of resolution 68/292, paragraph 14 of resolution 69/302, paragraph 13 of resolution 70/280, paragraph 14 of resolution 71/307 and paragraph 14 of resolution 72/299, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session;

Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

17. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018;³

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

18. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 512,142,000 dollars for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, inclusive of 480,102,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 27,194,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 4,845,200 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

Financing of the appropriation

19. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 85,357,000 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2019 in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 73/272 of 22 December 2018, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2019, as set out in its resolution 73/271 of 22 December 2018;

20. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 19 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 2,583,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 2,174,950 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 322,720 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 85,330 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

21. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 426,785,000 dollars for the period from 1 September 2019 to 30 June 2020, at a monthly rate of 42,678,500 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 73/272, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2019 and 2020, as set out in its resolution 73/271, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

22. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 21 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 12,915,000 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 10,874,750 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,613,580 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated

³ A/73/627.

share of 426,670 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

23. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraphs 19 and 21 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 4,497,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution [70/246](#) of 23 December 2015, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2018, as set out in its resolution [70/245](#) of 23 December 2015;

24. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the total amount of 4,497,200 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 23 above;

25. *Decides* that the increase of 645,500 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 4,497,200 dollars referred to in paragraphs 23 and 24 above;

26. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution [1502 \(2003\)](#) of 26 August 2003;

27. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

28. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East”, the sub-item entitled “United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon”.