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Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

Budget performance of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2018/19	\$121,455,900
Expenditure for 2018/19	\$121,266,600
Unencumbered balance for 2018/19	\$189,300
Appropriation for 2019/20	\$49,122,900
Projected expenditure for 2019/20 ^a	\$49,122,900

^a Estimates as at 31 January 2020.



I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 17 March 2020. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations are contained in its report (A/74/737), and those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 can be found in its related report (A/74/806).

2. In its resolution 2350 (2017), the Security Council established MINUJUSTH as a follow-on peacekeeping mission in Haiti, for an initial period of six months from 16 October 2017 to 15 April 2018. The Council subsequently extended the mandate of the Mission, most recently for a final period of six months, until 15 October 2019, by its resolution 2466 (2019).

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

3. By its resolution 72/260 B, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$121,455,900 gross (\$117,197,300 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. Expenditure for the period totalled \$121,266,600 gross (\$116,732,600 net), for a budget implementation rate of 99.8 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of \$189,300, in gross terms, represents 0.2 per cent of the overall level of resources approved for the period.

4. The unencumbered balance of \$189,300 reflects the combined effect of lower-than-budgeted expenditure under operational costs (\$5,707,200, or 15.7 per cent) and higher-than-budgeted expenditure under military and police personnel (\$2,004,600, or 4.6 per cent) and civilian personnel (\$3,513,300, or 8.5 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of MINUJUSTH for the period in question (A/74/667).

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that more than 90 per cent of assets had been disposed of, except for a few items still in use by the team undertaking the residual liquidation activities, and that detailed information on the disposition of assets would be provided in a report on that subject. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the above-mentioned report will include comprehensive and transparent information on the disposal of assets, including the best value for the assets sold, and details on any related reimbursement/cost recovery for assets transferred to other missions and operations, including the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti.**

6. It is indicated in the supplementary information that the actual vacancy rates as at 31 July 2018 were 6.4 per cent for United Nations police and 9.0 per cent for international staff. The Advisory Committee requested but did not receive adequate explanations for the considerable variations between those rates and the budgeted vacancy rates for 2018/19 (12.0 and 11.0 per cent, respectively). The Committee also asked why the rates of 12.0 and 11.0 per cent, respectively, were presented in the budget proposals, given that the actual rates were 26.1 and 8.9 per cent, respectively, as at 28 February 2018. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide the General Assembly, at the time of its consideration of the present report, with further explanations for the considerable variations between**

the proposed, approved and actual average vacancy rates for the above-mentioned categories of personnel.

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission had planned and executed environmental remediation activities before handing over each site to its owners, with the main environmental issues encountered during the closure of sites pertaining to waste management and the management of petroleum products. The Committee was also informed that the Environmental Management Unit had inspected camps several times to determine whether there had been soil contamination or major fuel spills before transferring them to their owners. Surface soil showing major contamination had been transported to the logistics base in Port-au-Prince for decontamination, while other soil had been treated in place. The soil remediation activities at the logistics base had been completed on 4 December 2019. **The Advisory Committee is concerned by the lack of details provided on waste management in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular the management of petroleum products, and trusts that further information on this matter will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

8. It is indicated in paragraphs 53 and 58 of the report that the reduced requirements under repair and maintenance are attributable to the use of United Nations-owned vehicle repair workshops for maintenance services carried out by individual contractual personnel during the time of political unrest when access to the contracted service providers was limited, with the related expenditure being recorded under other supplies, services and equipment. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, during the period, the Mission had used a combination of outsourced and in-house repairs and maintenance services, with the decision to use United-Nations owned vehicle repair workshops being based on the security situation rather than cost considerations.

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the joint resource mobilization strategy mentioned in paragraph 25 of the report involved approaching other partners such as the Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations trust fund for human security and the European Union. Furthermore, following a request from the Government of Haiti, the Secretary-General had granted the country eligibility for funding from the Peacebuilding Fund to support activities in the area of peacebuilding in the context of the transition. The United Nations country team had gradually raised some \$8.8 million to fund four projects (on rule of law and access to justice, weapon and ammunition management, community violence reduction and electoral security), which had been developed during the transition period with a specific focus on women and in consultation with national counterparts.

10. It is indicated in the report that the construction of one tribunal was cancelled because it could not be completed before the end of the liquidation period (sect. F, component 2). The Advisory Committee requested further explanations for that cancellation, given that a follow-up mission had been established and could ensure the completion of the construction, and was informed that in paragraph 5 of its resolution [2476 \(2019\)](#) the Security Council had decided that the United Nations country team would assume the MINUJUSTH programmatic and technical assistance role after 15 October 2019.

11. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will continue to review and update the guide for senior leadership on field entity closure,¹ including best practices and lessons learned during the closure of MINUJUSTH on the disposal of waste during the liquidation of the Mission, as well as on the transition to a non-peacekeeping presence and cooperation with the United Nations country team for the planning, funding and implementation of programmatic activities.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

12. In its resolution [73/317](#),² the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Mission in an amount not exceeding \$49,450,100 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2019. Subsequently, in its resolution [74/260](#),³ the Assembly decided to appropriate to the Special Account for the Mission the amount of \$49,122,900 for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

13. With regard to the supplementary information, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the effective date of expenditure for the current period was 31 January 2020 (see attachment A.1).

14. With regard to current and projected expenditure for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 January 2020, expenditure amounted to \$36,863,900, against the appropriation of \$49,122,900, for an unencumbered balance of \$12,259,000. At the end of the financial period, the estimated total expenditure would equal the appropriation, resulting in projected full utilization of the approved resources. Upon enquiry as to how the Mission would be able to spend an amount of \$12.3 million from 1 February to 30 June 2020, given the current levels of expenditure and considering that the Mission had already been closed, the Committee was informed that the Mission expected unforeseen potential liabilities for claims from suppliers and service providers, which might arise after closure. In addition, the separation of three employees was currently on hold pending a decision of the Management Evaluation Unit or the completion of a review of their cases by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in response to their request. A further three employees were on extended sick leave. The Mission was also completing the processing of payments for entitlements as cases became known or employees submitted the required documentation. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on the status of the above-mentioned expenditure to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

15. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 January 2020, a total of \$263,545,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of the Mission since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to \$218,021,000, for an outstanding balance of \$45,524,000. As at 17 February 2020, the cash deficit of the Mission amounted to \$4,933,000. **The Advisory Committee recalls the repeated**

¹ The guide (effective date 1 January 2019, review date 1 January 2022) was promulgated in early 2019, building on the lessons learned in the closures and liquidations of the missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Haiti (see the final performance report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire ([A/74/711](#), sect. IV) and the related report of the Advisory Committee ([A/74/785](#))).

² See also the related reports of the Secretary-General ([A/73/641](#) and [A/73/748](#)) and the Advisory Committee ([A/73/755/Add.6](#)).

³ See also the related reports of the Secretary-General ([A/74/532](#)) and the Advisory Committee ([A/74/589](#)).

calls by the General Assembly for all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without condition.

16. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as at 31 January 2020, an amount of \$6,645,600 was owed for the costs of formed police units and an amount of \$3,339,500 for contingent-owned equipment. There were no pending death and disability claims.

IV. Conclusion

17. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MINUJUSTH are indicated in section VI of the report. The Secretary-General is requesting the General Assembly:

(a) To take note of the total amount of \$3,144,600, comprising the unencumbered balance of \$189,300 with respect to the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and other revenue for the period ended 30 June 2019, amounting to \$2,955,300 from interest revenue (\$336,000), other/miscellaneous revenue (\$493,300) and the cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$2,126,000);

(b) To defer, until consideration by the General Assembly of the final performance report of the Mission, a decision on the treatment of the total amount of \$3,144,600 indicated in subparagraph (a) above.

18. Subject to its observations and recommendation above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General.
