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Proposed programme budget for 2021

Proposed programme budget for 2021

Part II

Political affairs

Section 3

Political affairs

Special political missions

Thematic cluster III: regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions

Sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2021

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2021 for thematic cluster III: regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 23 October 2020.

2. In addendum 1 to section 3, Political affairs, of his report on the proposed programme budget for 2021 ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), the Secretary-General, provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2021 for 39 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Detailed information in respect of each special political mission is contained in five addenda to section 3 of the proposed programme budget.¹ The addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III and the two largest missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission

¹ [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#), [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#) and [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6/Corr.1](#).



in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). 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/75/7/Add.2), while its comments and recommendations on budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are covered in its related reports.² The Secretary-General also indicates that he will present to the General Assembly separate proposals for any additional requirements emanating from additional mandates or changes in mandates (see A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1, para. 3). The Committee was informed that resource requirements for 2021 for the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) (thematic cluster III), established on 3 June 2020 pursuant to Security Council resolution 2524 (2020), amounted to \$34,327,300 (net of staff assessment) and would be presented in a separate report (A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.7).³ The Committee's comments and recommendations pertaining to the budget proposal for UNITAMS will be contained in its related report (A/75/7/Add.8).

3. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2021 (A/75/7 and A/75/7/Corr.1, chap. I, sect. A), the Advisory Committee made comments and recommendations on the budget methodology, format and presentation, which also apply to the reports of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1–7).

II. Budget performance for 2019 and 2020 and resource requirements for 2021

4. The proposed resource requirements for 2021 for the 11 special political missions under thematic cluster III, compared with the approved resources for 2020 and the expenditure for 2019, are summarized in table 1.

Table 1
Summary of resource requirements for thematic cluster III

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Mission	2019		2020		2021		Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, 1 Jan.–30 Sept.	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	2021 budget vs. 2020 appropriation
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	12 700.7	12 617.6	12 611.3	8 430.2	14 322.0	–	1 710.7
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	16 868.8	16 136.6	15 318.2	10 152.9	1 024.0	–	(14 294.2)

² A/75/7/Add.3, A/75/7/Add.4, A/75/7/Add.5, A/75/7/Add.6 and A/75/7/Add.7.

³ On 27 July 2020 the Secretary-General, through the authority granted to him by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/265 of 27 December 2019, provided an initial funding related to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses in the total amount of \$933,300 (net of staff assessment) for the period from 20 July to 30 September 2020. On 30 September 2020 the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions authorized the Secretary-General, under the terms of resolution 74/265, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$1,818,600 (gross) (1,702,100, net of staff assessment) to meet the resource requirements of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2020.

Mission	2019		2020		2021		Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, 1 Jan.–30 Sept.	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	2021 budget vs. 2020 appropriation
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	102 858.4	97 671.9	104 878.2	60 321.9	104 777.3	–	(100.9)
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	3 033.5	2 651.2	2 901.4	2 077.1	2 953.0	–	51.6
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	3 501.0	3 600.0	3 458.0	2 156.9	3 854.9	–	396.9
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	8 842.1	8 430.9	8 953.6	6 264.1	9 790.6	82.0	837.0
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	7 263.7	7 542.0	7 129.0	5 230.6	8 165.1	–	1 036.1
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	76 398.9	77 554.7	72 440.5	49 162.7	70 291.4	17.9	(2 149.1)
United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	65 323.5	68 304.1	61 327.5	41 510.0	64 074.5	–	2 747.0
United Nations Mission to Support the Hdaydah Agreement	56 155.8	50 917.1	51 642.7	26 049.1	49 037.2	–	(2 605.5)
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	3 592.6	3 273.8	20 114.2	13 266.9	19 489.4	–	(624.8)
Total	356 539.0	348 700.0	360 774.6	224 622.6	347 779.4	99.9	(12 995.2)

5. When excluding UNITAMS, the resources proposed for 2021 for the missions grouped under thematic cluster III amount to \$347,779,400, representing a decrease of \$12,995,200 (3.6 per cent) compared with the resources approved for 2020. With the inclusion of UNITAMS, they amount to \$382,106,700, representing an increase of 21,332,100 (5.9 per cent). A summary of the main factors contributing to the variances between the approved resources and the proposed resources for missions under thematic cluster III is contained in table 5 of the main report of the Secretary-General (A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1).

6. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with further information on the cluster III expenditure for 2019 and 2020 shown in table 1. The overall expenditure for 2019 amounted to \$348,700,000, reflecting an underexpenditure of \$7,839,000, or 2.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$356,539,000. As shown in table 1, four missions incurred overexpenditure for 2019: (a) the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, in the amount of \$99,000; (b) the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in the amount of \$278,300; (c) the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), in the amount of \$1,155,800; and (d) the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC), in the amount of \$2,980,600. **The Advisory Committee trusts that every effort will be made to absorb any additional costs to the extent possible in the future.**

7. As shown in table 1, expenditure as at 30 September 2020 amounted to \$224,622,600, which represents 62 per cent of the appropriated amount of

\$360,774,600. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on expenditure for 2020 to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

A. Comments and recommendations on personnel matters

1. Military and police personnel

8. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for the 11 special political missions under thematic cluster III for 2021 amount to \$30,204,200, reflecting an increase of \$533,500, or 1.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$29,670,700 for 2020.⁴ The variance is mainly attributable to the additional requirements of \$473,600 for the rations and mission subsistence allowance rate applicable to the 75 United Nations monitors deployed in Hudaydah ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#)), para. 336 and table 55). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for military and police personnel for 2021 for the special political missions under thematic cluster III.**

2. Civilian personnel

9. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a table showing positions approved for 2020 and proposed staffing requirements for 2021 for the missions under thematic cluster III (see table 2).⁵ Staffing changes are also summarized in annex XIII to the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)).

⁴ With UNITAMS, cluster III will be composed of 12 special political missions. The police component of UNITAMS would comprise 21 individual police officers to be deployed to Khartoum, El Fasher, Zalingei and Nyala, in line with the provisions of paragraph 2 (iii) of Security Council resolution [2524 \(2020\)](#).

⁵ In addition to the staffing requirements listed in table 2, the UNITAMS civilian component would consist of 258 staff members and 11 United Nations Volunteers.

Table 2
Thematic cluster III: staffing requirements by mission (excluding UNITAMS)

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Approved for 2020</i>	<i>Vacant as at 30 September 2020</i>	<i>Proposed for 2021</i>	<i>New positions</i>	<i>Abolishment</i>	<i>Conversion</i>	<i>Reclassification</i>	<i>Reassignment</i>	<i>Redeployment/relocation</i>
Cluster III									
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	63 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 13 P-4, 7 P-3, 7 FS, 6 NPO, 19 LL)	7 (3 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 LL)	75 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 14 P-4, 10 P-3, 1 P-2, 6 FS, 9 NPO, 22 LL)	12 (2 P-5, 1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 NPO, 4 LL)	–	–	2 (1 FS to 1 P-2, 1 LL to 1 NPO)	3 (1 P-4, 2 NPO)	4 (2 P-4, 2 LL)
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	121 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 12 P-4, 8 P-3, 27 FS, 22 NPO, 39 LL, 4 UNV)	29 (2 P-5, 3 P-4, 3 P-3, 5 FS, 9 NPO, 6 LL, 1 UNV)	28 (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 12 FS, 11 LL)	–	93 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 5 P-5, 9 P-4, 7 P-3, 15 FS, 22 NPO, 28 LL, 4 UNV)	–	–	–	–
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	362 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 30 P-5, 50 P-4, 39 P-3, 57 FS, 92 NPO, 45 LL, 38 UNV)	68 (4 P-5, 9 P-4, 16 P-3, 5 FS, 25 NPO, 9 LL)	362 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 30 P-5, 50 P-4, 39 P-3, 57 FS, 92 NPO, 45 LL, 38 UNV)	–	–	–	–	–	–
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	–	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	–	–	–	–	–	–
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	11 (2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	1 P-4	11 (2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	–	–	–	–	–	–
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	82 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 58 LL)	8 (1 P-2, 2 FS, 1 NPO, 4 LL)	82 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 7 FS, 5 NPO, 58 LL)	–	–	1 P-2 to 1 NPO	–	–	–

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Approved for 2020</i>	<i>Vacant as at 30 September 2020</i>	<i>Proposed for 2021</i>	<i>New positions</i>	<i>Abolishment</i>	<i>Conversion</i>	<i>Reclassification</i>	<i>Reassignment</i>	<i>Redeployment/relocation</i>
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	41 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 4 P-5, 11 P-4, 4 P-3, 7 FS, 3 NPO, 9 LL)	5 (3 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 FS)	48 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 5 P-5, 12 P-4, 6 P-3, 8 FS, 3 NPO, 11 LL)	7 (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 FS, 2 LL)	–	–	–	–	–
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	314 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 7 D-1, 13 P-5, 35 P-4, 29 P-3, 2 P-2, 120 FS, 1 GS (OL), 14 NPO, 84 LL, 6 UNV)	87 (1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 10 P-4, 12 P-3, 2 P-2, 23 FS, 9 NPO, 25 LL, 2 UNV)	314 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 7 D-1, 13 P-5, 35 P-4, 29 P-3, 2 P-2, 120 FS, 1 GS (OL), 14 NPO, 84 LL, 6 UNV)	–	–	–	–	1 P-4	3 (2 FS, 1 LL)
United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	446 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 22 P-5, 38 P-4, 46 P-3, 1 P-2, 41 FS, 1 GS (OL), 77 NPO, 80 LL, 131 UNV)	60 (2 D-1, 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 18 P-3, 1 P-2, 8 FS, 13 NPO, 11 LL)	451 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 22 P-5, 38 P-4, 46 P-3, 1 P-2, 45 FS, 1 GS (OL), 77 NPO, 80 LL, 132 UNV)	5 (4 FS, 1 UNV)	–	–	–	4 (1 P-4, 1 FS, 1 NPO, 1 LL)	8 (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 NPO, 3 LL)
United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement	159 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 10 P-4, 21 P-3, 1 P-2, 34 FS, 4 NPO, 80 LL)	79 (2 P-5, 6 P-4, 14 P-3, 13 FS, 2 NPO, 42 LL)	159 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 10 P-4, 21 P-3, 1 P-2, 33 FS, 5 NPO, 80 LL)	–	–	1 FS to 1 NPO	–	1 P-3	7 (2 P-4, 3 FS, 2 LL)
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	114 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 8 P-5, 20 P-4, 9 P-3, 1 P-2, 18 FS, 2 GS (OL), 21 NPO, 28 LL)	16 (2 P-5, 4 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 FS, 2 GS (OL), 2 LL)	114 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 8 P-5, 19 P-4, 11 P-3, 1 P-2, 17 FS, 2 GS (OL), 21 NPO, 28 LL)	–	–	–	2 (1 FS to 1 P-3, 1 P-4 to 1 P-3)	1 P-5	5 (2 FS, 3 LL)

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

10. Overall, the Secretary-General proposes 1,674 positions for 2021 for the 11 missions under thematic cluster III, representing a net reduction of 69 positions compared with 2020 (see table 2). Staffing changes for 2021 are proposed for 8 of the 11 missions, namely, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) (see paras. 11–14 below), the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), UNOCA (see paras. 19–20 and 23 below), UNSMIL, UNVMC (see paras. 21–23 below), the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) and the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH). No staffing changes are proposed for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) (see paras. 15–18 below), the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission.

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau

11. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, in its resolution [2512 \(2020\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNIOGBIS until 31 December 2020 and decided that it should start the liquidation process immediately after the mandate completion date of 31 December 2020, ending it no later than 28 February 2021. The Council also stressed the importance of the alignment of timelines for the liquidation of UNIOGBIS and the decision-making of the United Nations country team with regard to assets and premises (see [A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), paras. 47–50).

12. The staffing changes proposed for UNIOGBIS are indicated in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the report of the Secretary-General and consist of:

(a) The abolishment, effective 1 January 2021, of 93 positions (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 5 P-5, 9 P-4, 7 P-3, 15 Field Service positions, 22 National Professional Officers, 28 Local level positions and 4 United Nations Volunteers) at the closure of UNIOGBIS;

(b) The retention of a liquidation team of the remaining 28 positions until 28 February 2021 to complete the liquidation, comprising:

(i) 19 positions in the Mission Support Section (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 9 Field Service positions and 7 Local level positions);

(ii) Eight positions in the Integrated Safety and Security Office (1 P-3, 3 Field Service positions and 4 Local level positions);

(iii) One Legal Affairs Officer in the Legal Affairs Unit (P-4).

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that emphasis was placed on the staff drawdown, disposal of assets, archiving and records management, site handover, including the medical clinic and related assets, and environmental restoration. The first phase of staff separation was completed by the end of July 2020 and the second phase was completed at the end of September 2020. Staff members had all received advance notification of their termination dates. The Committee was also informed that, in order to assist national staff in their transition to future professional careers outside the Mission, the Mission had been holding information sessions with staff members since 2019 on the planned liquidation and consequent separation and had reached out to prospective employers on behalf of staff members, including the United Nations country team and local employment agencies. The Committee was further informed that the Mission had organized job fairs for staff to network and interact with prospective employers and had placed eligible national staff on a United Nations platform where staff members affected by downsizing receive priority consideration for recruitment.

14. **The Advisory Committee notes the efforts of UNIOGBIS to assist national staff in their transition to future professional careers outside the Mission, reiterates the need to continue capacity-building activities to support national staff during the mission closure and trusts that additional steps will be taken by the Secretary-General to assist national staff in developing skills and finding employment opportunities (see also [A/74/746](#), para. 40, [A/74/592](#), para. 14, and [A/74/833](#), para. 15).**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

15. In paragraph 102 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes that the number and levels of staffing positions remain unchanged for 2021. The Secretary-General also proposes that 11 general temporary assistance positions (3 P-3 and 8 National Professional Officers), which were approved in 2020 to support the forthcoming elections, be continued in 2021. The positions comprise: (a) one Electoral Officer (P-3) for the warehouse, asset management and logistics; (b) one Electoral Officer (P-3) for the data-processing centre; (c) one Electoral Officer (P-3) for training; (d) one Electoral Officer (National Professional Officer) for electoral security; (e) one Electoral Officer (National Professional Officer) for voter education and outreach; and (f) six Electoral Officers (National Professional Officer) for logistics for field office reinforcement. The Secretary-General further proposes the continuation of 38 positions of United Nations Volunteers.

16. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, although the elections in Somalia are planned to be held towards the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, the timing and modality of the elections are contingent upon the broader political process. He also indicates that Somalia is expected to hold its first one-person, one-vote elections for the two houses of Parliament in late 2020/early 2021 and that these would be the first one-person, one-vote elections in more than 50 years in Somalia. UNSOM has been providing technical and logistical support, as well as strategic advice, to the National Independent Electoral Commission since its establishment in 2015. As part of its conflict prevention efforts, UNSOM will intensify this work by supporting the operationalization and effective functioning of the electoral security task force, as well as the establishment of an electoral dispute resolution mechanism ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), para. 88).

17. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the electoral process had been affected by delays due to the lack of political agreement on an electoral model that would be implemented for the federal Somali elections. Both the federal member states and the Federal Government of Somalia met in Mogadishu in September 2020 to reach an agreement on the electoral model for elections in 2020 and 2021. The proposed electoral model that resulted from the talks is significantly different from the one-person, one-vote model that was originally envisioned, which included voter registration. The proposed model, in contrast, is based on indirect elections in a limited number of locations throughout Somalia, through the selection of delegates, similar to the process that took place during the 2016 elections. The political process for adopting the new proposed model is ongoing, as the proposition has to be submitted for ratification to the Somali Parliament, which may or may not approve the proposal. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the 11 general temporary assistance positions were originally justified on the basis of the technical support that was expected to be needed for the planned one-person, one-vote electoral model, which included voter registration and technical and operational support to build the capacity of the National Independent Electoral Commission in organizing the 2020/21 elections.

18. **Taking into consideration the two different electoral models under consideration, the Advisory Committee is of the view that greater clarification is**

needed regarding the approach for electoral support and the related resource requirements for the 38 United Nations Volunteers and 11 general temporary assistance positions. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide the information to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.

United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

19. In paragraph 224 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes to establish the following seven positions to strengthen UNOCA capacity in implementing the expanded mandate:

- (a) Four positions in the Political Affairs Section comprising:
 - (i) One Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) to ensure the delivery of timely and accurate political analysis and early warning to better advise and support the good offices of the Special Representative;
 - (ii) One Political Affairs Officer (P-4) to ensure the full operationalization of the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa and the provision of adequate support to the Economic Community of Central African States reform and its new structure, including capacity- and institution-building programmes;
 - (iii) One Political Affairs Officer (P-3) to strengthen the capacity of the Section in the provision of timely and accurate early warning analysis in support of the good offices of the Special Representative;
 - (iv) One Administrative Assistant (Field Service) to reinforce the existing support and assistance in the daily operations of the Section, especially with regard to the organization of workshops, capacity-building activities, field visits and meetings;

- (b) One position of Public Information Officer (P-3) in the Public Information Section;

- (c) Two positions in the Mission Support Section, comprising one Inventory and Supply Assistant (Local level) and one Driver (Local level).

20. With regard to the proposal for the establishment of one Administrative Assistant (Field Service), the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that, with the proposed establishment of the three substantive positions in the Political Affairs Section (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3), the total number of substantive staff will increase and therefore require administrative support to facilitate the discharge of their duties, including project management, the organization of regional workshops and capacity-building activities, as well as support for field visits and joint meetings, such as the biannual meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa on transhumance and on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. It is therefore proposed to establish a position of Administrative Assistant (Field Service) to strengthen support for the substantive team.

United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

21. In paragraph 303 of his report, the Secretary-General proposes the following staffing changes:

- (a) The redeployment of eight positions, as follows:
 - (i) Six positions in the Verification Division, comprising 1 Liaison Officer (P-4), 2 Liaison Officers (P-3), 1 Liaison Officer (National Professional

Officer), 1 Public Information Officer (National Professional Officer) and 1 Administrative Assistant (Local level) in between regional offices, sub-offices and local sites;

(ii) Two Field Security Assistant (Local level) positions in between regional offices, sub-offices and local sites;

(b) The establishment of five positions comprising:

(i) Four positions of Close Protection Officer (Field Service) in the Protection Services Unit;

(ii) One position of Support Officer (United Nations Volunteer) in the Human Resources Unit;

(c) The reassignment of four positions, comprising:

(i) One position of Team Assistant (Local level) from the Administrative, Identification and Fire Safety Team, as a Driver (Local level) in the Protection Services Unit;

(ii) One position of Travel Officer (National Professional Officer) as a Human Resources Officer (National Professional Officer);

(iii) One position of Senior Staff Assistant (Field Service) in the Office of the Special Representative as a Finance and Budget Assistant (Field Service) in the Financial Resourcing, Performance and Risk Management Unit;

(iv) One position of Contracts Management Officer (P-4) in the Acquisition Management Unit as an Acquisition Planning Officer (P-4).

22. With regard to the proposal to establish one position of Support Officer (United Nations Volunteer) in the Human Resources Unit, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the establishment of that International United Nations Volunteer position was to ensure compliance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the United Nations and the United Nations Volunteer Programme. The memorandum of understanding establishes the legal institutional financial and operational framework for collaboration between the Secretariat and the United Nations Volunteer Programme. The Committee notes from the additional information provided by the Secretary-General that the position is required to ensure administrative, financial and programme support in United Nations missions with more than 51 United Nations Volunteer positions.

23. **The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 74/263, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the nationalization of positions, whenever appropriate, as well as to build local capacity within the special political missions and to report thereon in the context of future budget submissions. Noting the nature of the support functions to be performed, and in line with the request of the Assembly regarding nationalization, the Committee recommends that the proposed international United Nations Volunteer (Human Resources Unit) in the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and the proposed position of Administrative Assistant (Field service) in the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa be approved as National Professional Officer positions.**

Special post allowance

24. Annex XII to the main report of the Secretary-General (A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1) shows the positions with incumbents in receipt of special post allowance for one year or more in special political missions, as at 29 February 2020. For the missions under thematic cluster III, there are four such positions: three since 2017 and one since

2018. The Advisory Committee made comments and recommendations on the use of the special post allowance in its report on the proposed programme budget for 2021 (see [A/75/7](#), paras. 56 and 57). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the recruitment for positions encumbered by staff members in receipt of a special post allowance for extended periods will be completed without further delay.**

Vacant positions

25. Positions vacant for more than one year in special political missions as at 29 February 2020 are set out in annex XI to the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), showing 103 such positions under thematic cluster III. The Advisory Committee notes that no positions have been vacant for a period of more than two years. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, as at 30 September 2020, 359 positions were vacant in the following missions: UNOWAS (7); UNIOGBIS (29); UNSOM (68); United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (1); UNSCOL (8); UNOCA (5); UNSMIL (87); UNVMC (59); UNMHA (79); and BINUH (16). The Committee notes that the vacant positions in UNIOGBIS are mainly the result of the proposed abolishment of a number of posts in view of the closure of the mission, and that a number of missions, including UNSOM and UNSMIL, have experienced particular challenges in the recruitment of qualified personnel. **The Advisory Committee expects that recruitment for all vacant positions will be completed expeditiously and trusts that updated information will be provided to the General Assembly.**

Vacancy rates

26. Annex X to the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)) provides a comparison of the proposed and actual vacancy rates by mission and staff category. Table 3 sets out the vacancy rates for missions under cluster III. Upon enquiry as to the different vacancy rates applied to individual missions, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while the actual vacancy rates formed the starting point in determining applicable vacancy rates for a future period, consideration was also given to factors specific to a mission, such as the size of the staffing complement. The Committee notes that the vacancy rates indicated for UNSOM and UNMHA do not appear realistic in view of the number of vacancies. The Committee discusses vacant positions and vacancy rates further in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/75/7/Add.2](#)).

Table 3
Vacancy rates for thematic cluster III

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved positions, 2020</i>	<i>Approved vacancy rate, 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Vacancy rates, as at 31 August 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Average vacancy rates Jan.–Aug. 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Proposed positions, 2021</i>	<i>Budgeted vacancy rate, 2021 (percentage)</i>
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	International staff	38	13	17.7	13.9	44	13; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	6	0	0.0	0.0	9	0; new positions: 50
	National staff (Local level)	19	0	5.3	5.2	22	0; new positions: 35

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved positions, 2020</i>	<i>Approved vacancy rate, 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Vacancy rates, as at 31 August 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Average vacancy rates Jan.–Aug. 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Proposed positions, 2021</i>	<i>Budgeted vacancy rate, 2021 (percentage)</i>
United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau	International staff	56	5	21.4	12.7	17	5
	National Professional Officer	22	4	40.9	7.4	0	–
	National staff (Local level)	39	5	15.4	2.9	11	5
	United Nations Volunteer	4	15	25.0	25.0	–	–
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	International staff	187	11	16.3	17.4	187	13
	National Professional Officer	92	30	20.0	24.7	92	17
	National staff (Local level)	45	34	20.0	16.9	45	11
	United Nations Volunteer	38	0	71.1	71.1	38	8
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	International staff	8	5	0.0	0.0	8	5
	National Professional Officer	4	5	0.0	0.0	4	5
	National staff (Local level)	18	5	0.0	0.0	18	5
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	International staff	9	5	11.1	9.7	9	5
	National staff (Local level)	2	0	0.0	0.0	2	0
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	International staff	20	5	20.0	21.4	19	5
	National Professional Officer	4	0	25.0	21.0	5	0
	National staff (Local level)	58	5	6.9	6.4	58	3
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	International staff	29	10	15.6	11.4	34	10; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	3	33	0.0	0.0	3	0
	National staff (Local level)	9	11.1	0.0	0.0	11	0; new positions: 35
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	International staff	210	13	11.0	20.5	210	17.5
	National Professional Officer	14	37	64.3	64.3	14	64
	National staff (Local level)	84	28	29.8	29.8	84	31.5
	United Nations Volunteer	6	10	33.3	33.3	6	33
United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	International staff	158	16	20.9	20.5	162	17; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	77	10	15.6	14.4	77	12
	National staff (Local level)	80	10	13.8	12.0	80	12
	United Nations Volunteer	131	International: 10; national: 35	17.6	17.6	132	International: 1; new positions: 50; national: 0

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved positions, 2020</i>	<i>Approved vacancy rate, 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Vacancy rates, as at 31 August 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Average vacancy rates Jan.–Aug. 2020 (percentage)</i>	<i>Proposed positions, 2021</i>	<i>Budgeted vacancy rate, 2021 (percentage)</i>
United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement	International staff	75	30	48.0	46.2	74	25
	National Professional Officer	4	30	50.0	50.0	5	25
	National staff (Local level)	80	30	52.5	52.7	80	25
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	International staff	65	12.2	24.6	24.4	65	20
	National Professional Officer	21	11.9	0.0	4.5	21	5
	National staff (Local level)	28	12.5	7.1	8.2	28	7

27. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraph 23 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

28. The proposed resources for operational costs for the 11 special political missions under thematic cluster III for 2021 amount to \$154,551,300 (\$170,713,900 with the inclusion of UNITAMS), reflecting a decrease of \$10,296,500, or 6.2 per cent, without UNITAMS, and an increase of \$5,866,100, or 3.5 per cent, with its inclusion, compared with the appropriation of \$164,847,800 for 2020. Table 4 shows the information on the operational costs for thematic cluster III, including the 2019 expenditure, the 2020 appropriation and the proposed requirements for 2021, that was provided to the Advisory Committee.

29. The Advisory Committee notes that operational costs increased for three missions, namely, UNOWAS, UNOCA and UNVMC. The Committee also notes from the additional information provided by the Secretary-General that the increases in UNOWAS are mainly attributable to the rental and operation of the fixed-wing aircraft and the exclusion of UNIOGBIS from the cost-sharing arrangement, owing to its closure by the end of 2020, resulting in an increase in the share of UNOWAS from 75 to 95 per cent, and to higher requirements expected for other services for the organization of workshops in support of new tasks and activities associated with the new mandate, in particular in the areas of gender, climate change and security. As regards UNVMC, the Committee notes that the increases are mainly attributable to: the increase in official travel within the mission area to cover the new offices in the regions; increases under facilities and infrastructure for the rental of premises, construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance, resulting from increased security enhancements required in various locations and the acquisition of generators and electrical equipment; increases for air operations; and increases for contractual, security and other freight costs under other supplies, services and equipment.

30. In terms of those missions in which operational costs decreased, the Advisory Committee notes from the additional information provided by the Secretary-General that the decrease in requirements for UNSOM is mainly attributable to lower requirements for maintenance services, resulting from the exclusion of requirements for the contract for management services for the Garowe compound and lower costs of cleaning, environmental and plant maintenance, and for information and

telecommunications technology services and equipment. In UNSMIL, the Committee notes that the reductions are mainly a result of the lower requirements for the rental of premises in Tunis and regions within Libya; the lower volume of acquisition for safety and security equipment; lower requirements for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance and security services; and the acquisition of fewer generators and electrical equipment. In UNMHA, reductions are mainly attributable to: the discontinuation of the rental of the marine vessel and the transfer of UNMHA personnel in Hudaydah to land-based facilities under facilities and infrastructure; reduced requirements for the acquisition of furniture, owing to existing stocks, and for petrol, oil and lubricants; the exclusion of a provision for the acquisition of vehicles and lower requirements for liability insurance under ground transportation; and reduced requirements under air operations owing to the shift in the provision of aeromedical evacuation capacity from a rotary-wing aircraft to a commercially contracted forward surgical team. In BINUH, the Committee notes that the reductions are mainly a result of the lower requirements for consultants and consulting services, attributable mainly to the Mission's initiative to transfer knowledge and expertise from the consulting services in 2020 to the staff members, with a view to gaining in-house expertise, and the exclusion of a provision for the acquisition of vehicles and spare parts under ground transportation, owing to the availability of stocks. With regard to the decreases in operational costs in UNIOGBIS, the Committee notes that the reductions are a result of the planned closure of the Mission by 31 December 2020 resulting from the end of its mandate and completion of the liquidation process by 28 February 2021.

Table 4
Thematic cluster III: operational costs

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2019		2020		2021		Variance 2021 budget vs. 2020 appropriation
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, 1 Jan.–30 Sept.	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
Operational costs							
Experts	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Consultants and consulting services	2 816.4	1 238.5	3 005.9	1 072.4	2 578.1	–	(427.8)
Official travel	10 145.3	8 882.5	9 024.0	1 870.8	8 720.7	–	(303.3)
Facilities and infrastructure	66 904.7	66 990.6	60 624.0	41 240.2	56 884.5	46.0	(3 739.5)
Ground transportation	13 786.2	12 922.5	7 670.4	4 187.7	6 229.1	17.9	(1 441.3)
Air operations	36 292.6	35 250.5	42 062.1	25 088.4	38 231.7	–	(3 830.4)
Marine operations	567.4	155.3	429.4	2.3	325.5	–	(103.9)
Communications and information technology	26 572.3	27 245.1	22 026.2	10 711.5	19 698.4	21.0	(2 327.8)
Medical	9 588.6	7 190.8	8 473.1	3 792.9	10 285.4	–	1 812.3
Special equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	13 454.8	9 174.6	11 532.7	5 330.3	11 597.9	15.0	65.2
Quick-impact projects	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	180 128.3	169 050.4	164 847.8	93 296.5	154 551.3	99.9	(10 296.5)

Consultants and consulting services

31. Proposed resources for 2021 for consultants and consulting services amount to \$2,578,100, representing a reduction of \$427,800 compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$3,005,900. Expenditure in 2019 amounted to \$1,238,500, and \$1,072,400 in 2020, as at 30 September 2020 (see table 4). **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the use of consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and that core activities should be performed by means of in-house capacity (see also [A/74/7/Add.6](#), para. 18). Taking into account the existing capacity and the level of expenditure in 2019 and in the first nine months of 2020, the Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent, or \$386,700, to the proposed resources for consultants and consulting services.**

Official travel

32. Resource requirements for 2021 for official travel are proposed in the amount of \$8,720,700, representing a decrease of \$303,300 compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$9,024,000. Expenditure in 2019 amounted to \$8,882,500, and \$1,870,800 in 2020, as at 30 September 2020. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that greater use should be made of virtual meetings and online training tools (see also [A/75/7](#), para. 62) and, considering that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is likely to continue to have an impact on travel in 2021, the Committee recommends a reduction of 20 per cent, or \$1,744,100, under official travel.**

Communications and information technology

33. Under communications and information technology, proposed resources for 2021 amount to \$19,698,400, representing a decrease of \$2,327,800 compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$22,026,200. Expenditure in 2019 amounted to \$27,245,100, and \$10,711,500 in 2020, as at 30 September 2020. **Taking into account the level of expenditure in 2020 and the need for a consolidated presentation of information and communications technology (ICT) resources, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$1,969,800, under communications and information technology.** The Committee makes observations on ICT resources and satellite imagery in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/75/7/Add.2](#)).

Other supplies, services and equipment

34. Proposed resources for other supplies, services and equipment for 2021 amount to \$11,597,900, representing an increase of \$65,200 compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$11,532,700. Expenditure in 2019 amounted to \$9,174,600, and \$5,330,300 in 2020, as at 30 September 2020. As regards UNSMIL, the Advisory Committee notes from the additional information provided by the Secretary-General that the resource requirements amount to \$3,714,700 and represent an increase of \$206,200 compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$3,508,500, mainly for freight charges related to the proposed acquisition of communication and information technology equipment. With regard to UNSCOL, the resource requirements amount to \$119,800 and represent an increase in requirements in the amount of \$22,200 from the 2020 appropriation of \$97,600 that is attributable primarily to higher requirements for freight charges. **Considering the level of expenditure in 2019 and 2020, and that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have an impact on expenditure for office supplies, interpretation and meeting services, freight and individual contractors costs in 2021, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$1,159,800, under other supplies, services and equipment (see also [A/75/7](#),**

para. 68). The Committee recommends a further reduction of 5 per cent in the resources for other supplies, services and equipment with respect to UNSMIL, in the amount of \$185,700, and UNSCOL, in the amount of \$6,000.

35. Under other supplies, services and equipment, proposed resources for 2021 in BINUH amount to \$257,100, representing a decrease of \$19,200 compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$276,300. Expenditure as at 30 September 2020 were in the amount of \$277,110. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the higher than expected implementation rate of expenditure was due to the continued requirement for individual contractors for an additional 6 months to maintain the Log Base and liquidate assets prior to the relocation of the mission headquarters from the Log Base to the new location. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information will be provided in the context of the next budget submission.**

36. **The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs, subject to its comments and recommendations in paragraphs 31, 32, 33 and 34 above.**

C. Other matters

Cost-sharing arrangements

37. Regarding cost-sharing arrangements under thematic cluster III, the Advisory Committee recalls that it was informed, upon enquiry, that a number of cost-sharing arrangements with peacekeeping missions, service centres and United Nations offices for special political missions are in place (see [A/74/7/Add.4](#), paras. 39–42). The Committee also recalls that it was provided with information regarding the services provided between AMISOM and UNSOM and that it was informed that AMISOM was an enabler and strategic partner for the implementation of the UNSOM mandate. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary General to present updated information on cost-sharing arrangements and related resources between UNSOM, AMISOM and UNSOS in his next report on special political missions (cluster III).**
