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Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization

Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Total approved resources for 2019/20 ^a	\$1,048,690,400
Expenditure for 2019/20	\$1,036,092,000
Unencumbered balance for 2019/20 ^b	\$12,598,400
Appropriation for 2020/21	\$1,075,338,600
Projected expenditure for 2020/21 ^c	\$1,037,907,400
Projected underexpenditure for 2020/21	\$37,431,200
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2021/22	\$1,054,608,600
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2021/22	(\$7,929,700)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2021/22	\$1,046,678,900

^a The sum of appropriated resources of \$1,012,252,800 gross (989,601,600 net), and resources authorized under commitment authority of \$36,437,600 for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (see [A/75/605](#), paras. 3–5).

^b The unencumbered balance for 2019/20 is the unspent amount under commitment authority of \$36,437,600. There is no unencumbered balance with respect to the appropriated amount of \$1,012,252,800.

^c Estimates as at 31 March 2021.



I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions met online with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 14 April 2021. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations are contained in its report ([A/75/822](#)), 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 2019 to 30 June 2020 can be found in its related report ([A/75/829](#)).

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

2. By its resolution [73/315](#) and its decision 73/355, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$1,012,252,800 gross (\$989,601,600 net) for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. Subsequently, the Secretary-General sought the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into commitments up to an amount of \$36,437,600 to meet the additional requirements associated with the retention of three battalions and the implementation of the recommendations of the independent assessment on the protection of civilians and the neutralization of armed groups in Beni and Mambasa territories, which were required in view of the deteriorating security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a letter dated 28 April 2020, the Committee concurred with the request of the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding \$36,437,600 gross for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020; that amount has not been assessed on Member States. Therefore, the total approved resources for the period amounted to \$1,048,690,400 gross (\$1,026,039,200 net) as per the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/75/605](#), paras. 3–5).

3. Expenditure for the period totalled \$1,036,092,000 gross (\$1,008,206,500 net), for a budget implementation rate of 98.8 per cent. As indicated in section V of the performance report, the unencumbered balance of \$12,598,400 (gross) represents the unspent balance related to the aforementioned commitments in the amount of \$36,437,600. The appropriated resources in the amount of \$1,012,252,800 (gross), were spent in full, as also indicated in the table contained in section III.A of the performance report. The unencumbered balance represents 1.2 per cent of the total approved resources, reflecting the combined effect of higher-than-budgeted expenditure under civilian personnel (\$39,551,900, or 18.0 per cent) and lower-than-budgeted expenditure under military and police personnel (\$13,156,200, or 2.5 per cent), and operational costs (\$38,994,100, or 13.2 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in sections IV and V of the report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/605](#)).

4. During 2019/20, a total of \$39,552,400 was redeployed to group II (civilian personnel), comprising \$7,825,400 from group I (military and police personnel) and \$31,727,000 from group III (operational costs). The budget performance report indicates that the redeployment to group II (civilian personnel) was necessary to meet the increased requirements resulting from the lower actual average vacancy rates for all categories of personnel, an increase in the post adjustment multiplier, an increase in the salary scales and allowances of national staff and United Nations Volunteers,

the payment of termination charges for staff whose posts were abolished as at 1 July 2019, and the creation of general temporary assistance positions to accommodate staff members whose posts were abolished as at 1 July 2019, during the separation procedure. It is also indicated that the total redeployed amount of \$39,552,400 reflects the resources authorized under commitment authority not exceeding \$36,437,600 (A/75/605, paras. 87–89; see also para. 2 above).

5. **The Advisory Committee expresses concern that the underlying rationale for seeking a concurrence to enter into commitments of \$36,437,600, which was presumably the new military deployment (see para. 2 above), may not have been presented in full. The Committee recalls that it was informed that MONUSCO would not be able to absorb that amount due to increased requirements under civilian personnel owing to lower vacancy rates, an increase in the post adjustment multiplier for international staff and increased salary scales for national staff. However, it is now evident that an amount exceeding the amount of the commitment authority was subsequently redeployed to group II (civilian personnel) to compensate for the overexpenditure in that category, and that the related reasons by and large mirror those describing the inability to absorb the requested amount, as presented in paragraphs 87 to 89 of the performance report (see para. 2 above). The Committee emphasizes that any amounts granted under commitment authority must only be used for their requested purpose. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide an explanation and a breakdown of the eventual use of the funds of the commitment authority to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Unliquidated obligations

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that unliquidated obligations for MONUSCO decreased from \$185,652,600 in 2018/19 to \$136,311,000 in 2019/20. The Committee was also informed that the aforementioned amounts pertain primarily to group I (military and police personnel), with an amount of \$155,527,400 (83 per cent) for the period 2018/19 and an amount of \$103,483,500 (76 per cent) for the period 2019/20. The Committee was furthermore informed that the funds obligated to pay outstanding invoices are based on the requirements and the specific prevailing circumstances, such as the level of deployment or unsigned memorandums of understanding, with the outstanding balance for each period, as at 30 June, to include the unpaid invoices for one quarter from April to June, and that during the period 2018/19, three such memorandums were in draft form and unsigned, compared to one unsigned memorandum during the period 2019/20.

Information strategy

7. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the rapid transformation of the Congolese media landscape and the progressive use of the Internet, driven by the massive adoption of mobile telephones in the country, have led to major changes in the way information is consumed. This has also opened a channel through which people express themselves, including by spreading hate speech and false information. The Committee was also informed that, to address this challenge, MONUSCO has been focusing on enhancing its digital communication capacity, in particular in a crisis communications context, to counter hate speech and provide information through examples of positive results of the Mission's mandate implementation. The Mission, in coordination with the strategic communication department of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, established a new digital unit in 2019–2020 to lead this new strategy, including by increasing positive digital interactions with the Congolese population and through digital monitoring. Furthermore, in order to implement the strategy, MONUSCO has trained staff on

digital content production and has acquired related equipment. **The Advisory Committee trusts that more information and best practices on the work of the digital unit, including with respect to the MONUSCO information strategy, will be provided in the context of the next performance report.**

General temporary assistance

8. Expenditures under general temporary assistance for 2019/20 amounted to \$9,061,800, reflecting an overexpenditure of \$4,778,500 (111.6 per cent) compared to the apportionment in the amount of \$4,283,300, mainly due to the creation of an average of 10 international positions and 5 national positions to accommodate staff members whose posts were abolished as at 1 July 2019, during the separation procedure ([A/75/605](#), para. 101). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the overexpenditure was a result of the creation of 54 general temporary assistance positions in order to retain staff members beyond 30 June 2019 until their separation date, as follows: (a) staff with long absences due to approved extended sick leave; (b) staff for which a suspension of action of separation was granted by the United Nations Dispute and Appeals Tribunals; (c) staff on continuing appointment whose termination letters could only be released after the approval of the budget; (d) staff whose contracts were not aligned with the end of the budget year and were issued beyond 30 June 2019; and (e) staff with disabilities or with ongoing claim cases. **The Committee trusts that further clarification on the expenditure in 2019/20 for general temporary assistance will be provided to the General Assembly during the consideration of the present report.** The Advisory Committee provides further comments on general temporary assistance in its report on crosscutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/75/822](#)).

Matters pertaining to the report of the Board of Auditors

9. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of MONUSCO, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2020 ([A/75/5 \(Vol. II\)](#)). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to MONUSCO, including on: (a) unmanned aerial systems (see also para. 34 below); (b) the extension of temporary appointments; (c) contingent-owned equipment; and (d) weapons and ammunition management. The Committee recalls the recommendation of the Board with respect to the impact and effectiveness of the MONUSCO military component, and notes that the Administration deployed an evaluation mission in December 2019 to assess the ability of the component, including the Intervention Brigade, to effectively deliver on its mandate for the protection of civilians, identify operational deficiencies and gaps and make practical recommendations on how to improve the military component's performance in these domains, and that the Brigade had begun to plan joint operations with the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo ([A/75/5 \(Vol. II\)](#), annex). The Advisory Committee recalls its comment that certain observations and recommendations that relate, among others, to the assessment, tactical deployment and engagement of military units and assets are matters under the purview of Member States and the relevant organs of the United Nations ([A/75/829](#), para. 14). **The Advisory Committee concurs with the Board of Auditors on the recommendations regarding administrative and budgetary matters and trusts that they will be implemented in a timely manner.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

10. With regard to current and projected expenditure for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that, as at 31 March, expenditure amounted to \$806,841,100 (gross). At the end of the current period, the estimated total expenditures would amount to \$1,037,907,400 (gross), resulting in an unencumbered balance of \$37,431,200, reflecting expenditures of 3.5 per cent below the approved resources of \$1,075,338,600.

11. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 March 2021, a total of \$22,691,581,000 had been assessed on Member States since the inception of MONUSCO. Payments received amounted to \$22,096,345,200, leaving an outstanding balance of \$595,235,800. As at 1 March 2021, the cash available to the Mission amounted to \$196,002,700, which is sufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of \$177,219,600 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries). The Committee was also informed that, as at 31 December 2020, the outstanding balance for contingent-owned equipment amounted to \$36,897,600,000. **The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations on time, in full and without conditions.**

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 1 March 2021, an amount of \$7,977,000 had been paid to settle 291 death and disability claims since the inception of the Mission, and 27 claims were pending. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously.**

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

13. The mandate of the Mission was established by the Security Council in its resolution [1925 \(2010\)](#) and extended most recently, until 20 December 2021, in its resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#). The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of MONUSCO for 2021/22 are summarized in section I.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget ([A/75/769](#)). It is indicated that MONUSCO, with a view to ensuring sustained political engagement with the Government, will maintain its headquarters in Kinshasa, where the senior leadership will be located. The Mission will maintain five field offices, in Beni, Bunia, Bukavu, Goma and Kalemie, concentrating its presence in areas facing continued security and protection challenges. Furthermore, subject to the development of the security situation on the ground, the Mission will also assess the necessity of maintaining sub-offices in Uvira and Butembo.

14. As described in paragraphs 6 to 10 of the proposed budget report, in line with Security Council resolution [2556 \(2020\)](#), the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO agreed on a joint strategy ([S/2020/1041](#)) that would allow for a progressive transfer of the Mission's tasks to the Congolese authorities, with the support of the United Nations country team and other stakeholders. The Mission would reduce its civilian and uniformed footprint, and, following the closure of field offices in Maniema province and the Kasais in the 2020/21 period, its area of operations would be limited to the four provinces in which it is currently deployed (Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika). The progressive withdrawal from Tanganyika is foreseen by the end of June 2022. The United Nations police would support the Congolese national police in capacity-strengthening, addressing threats

to public safety and demilitarizing the law and order response in the four provinces. The MONUSCO formed police units would protect United Nations personnel and installations and support the capacity-building of the Congolese national police. The force would continue to support joint operations with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and quick reaction forces would be deployed as part of the force Intervention Brigade reconfiguration (see also para. 25 below).

B. Resource requirements

15. The proposed budget in the amount of \$1,054,608,600 for the 2021/22 period represents a decrease of \$20,730,000, or 1.9 per cent, compared with the resources of \$1,075,338,600 approved for the 2020/21 period (see table below).

Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment 2019/20	Expenditure (2019/20)	Apportionment (2020/21)	Expenditure as at 31 March 2021	Cost estimates (2021/22)	Variance	
						Amount	Percentage
Military and police personnel	509 957 600	519 930.0	526 078.6	414 750.9	522 261.7	(3 816.9)	(0.7)
Civilian personnel	219 331 200	258 883.1	258 006.7	192 269.1	265 710.4	7 703.7	3.0
Operational costs	283 830 500	257 278.9	291 253.3	199 821.1	266 636.5	(24 616.8)	(8.5)
Gross requirements	1 012 252 800	1 036 092.0	1 075 338.6	806 841.1	1 054 608.6	(20 730.0)	(1.9)

Note: Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances is provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget (A/75/769).

1. Military and police personnel

Category	Authorized 2020/21 ^a	Proposed 2021/22	Variance
Military observers	660	660	—
Military contingent personnel	13 640	13 640	—
United Nations police	591	591	—
Formed police unit personnel	1 410	1 410	—

^a Represents the highest level of proposed/authorized strength.

16. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2021/22 amount to \$522,261,700, reflecting a decrease of \$3,816,900, or 0.7 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2020/21, mainly for reduced requirements for freight due to the discontinuation of the provision for the deployment of two quick-reaction forces and the repatriation of one battalion, and due to a reduction in the proposed average number of troops and of United Nations police personnel and formed police units, and related requirements, partly offset, inter alia, by increased requirements for contingent-owned equipment pertaining to the deployment of four quick-reaction forces and increased emplacement travel costs (A/75/769, paras. 163–167).

17. The table below provides a summary of the delayed deployment factors for military and police personnel for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 periods, as well as those proposed for the 2021/22 period.

Delayed deployment factor

<i>Category</i>	<i>Actual 2019/20</i>	<i>Approved 2020/21</i>	<i>Actual 28 February 2021</i>	<i>Actual average 28 February 2021</i>	<i>Actual 31 March 2021</i>	<i>Actual average 31 March 2021</i>	<i>Proposed 2021/22</i>
Military and police personnel							
Military observers	30.3	23.0	28.5	31.7	25.5	31.1	23.0
Military contingents	4.7	4.2	11.5	6.9	9.9	7.3	5.7
United Nations police	46.4	10.0	37.1	46.8	36.2	36.8	23.0
Formed police units	14.2	6.4	23.7	31.7	12.9	29.6	12.8

18. **The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for military and police personnel.**

2. Civilian personnel

<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved 2020/21</i>	<i>Proposed 2021/22</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Posts			
International staff	720	698	(22)
National staff ^a	1 720	1 655	(65)
Temporary positions ^b	60	60	0
United Nations Volunteers	347	328	(19)
Government-provided personnel	90	90	0
Total	2 937	2 831	(106)

^a Includes National Professional Officers and national General Service staff.

^b Funded under general temporary assistance.

Recommendations on posts and positions

19. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2021/22 amount to \$265,710,400, reflecting an increase of \$7,703,700, or 3 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2020/21. The increase is due primarily to the higher rates for international and national salaries owing to the revised salary scale, and lower vacancy rates for United Nations volunteers, partly offset by a decrease related to the net effect of the proposed abolishment of 113 posts and positions (23 international staff, 67 national staff and 23 United Nations Volunteers), the proposed establishment of 7 posts and positions (3 international staff and 4 United Nations Volunteers) and the nationalization of 4 posts and positions (*ibid.*, para. 39).

20. A total of 2,831 civilian posts and positions are proposed for 2021/22, comprising 698 international posts, 1,655 national staff, 328 United Nations Volunteers, 60 temporary assistance positions and 90 government-provided personnel, compared with 2,937 approved posts and positions for 2020/21. Details with respect to the staffing proposals are provided in the report of the Secretary-General (*ibid.*, paras. 39, 56–62, 72–76, 83–86, 89, 90, 95–97, 101–105, 113–131, 168, 170 and 172).

Establishment

21. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of one general temporary assistance position of Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) in the Stabilization Support Section under component 2, support to stabilization and the strengthening of

State institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reporting to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (A/75/769, paras. 95 and 96). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position is being proposed in response to the planned merging of disarmament, demobilization, community-based reintegration and stabilization into one national disarmament, demobilization, community reintegration and stabilization programme. The Committee was also informed that the proposed Principal Coordination Officer would be based in Kinshasa and provide strategic guidance to the MONUSCO Stabilization Support Section, while the existing post of Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5) in that section has an operational focus. The Committee was furthermore informed that the Principal Coordination Officer would: (a) coordinate the implementation of the international security and stabilization support strategy and oversee its effective roll-out in the Kasais and Tanganyika provinces; (b) support good offices for intercommunity reconciliation; and (c) liaise with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the Political Affairs Division. **In view of the long-term importance of the planned national disarmament, demobilization, community reintegration and stabilization programme, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that there is only a temporary need for the function of a Principal Coordination Officer. The Committee sees merit in the establishment of the position but is not convinced that there is an operational need for the function at this early stage of the programme. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of one general temporary assistance position of Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) and looks forward to reconsidering the matter in the context of a future budget proposal.**

22. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of two Programme Management Officer posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) in the Programme Management Unit of the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Protection and Operations) under executive direction and management, with the P-4 level post to act as team leader (ibid., paras. 59 and 60). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the workload of the Programme Management Unit would increase, as it would coordinate the programmatic funds under the protection and operations pillar, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, justice, corrections, United Nations police and civil affairs. The Committee was also informed that the Programme Management Officers would provide support and ensure the disbursement and accurate accounting of funds for programmatic activities, including quick-impact projects. The Committee was also informed that the proposal for two Programme Management Officers is in response to the audit report¹ of the Office of Internal Oversight Services which stated, inter alia, that MONUSCO should assign to a unit, individual or individuals the responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. With respect to the proposed Programme Management Officer (P-3), the Committee notes from the job description, which was provided upon request, that the responsibilities of that function would primarily pertain to quick impact projects, such as their management, monitoring and planning. **The Advisory Committee notes that the administration of quick impact projects should be conducted from within a mission's existing staffing resources and that no additional resources in support of such projects should be requested,² and therefore recommends against the establishment of one Programme Management Officer (P-3) (see para. 44 below).**

¹ Office of Internal Oversight Services, report no. 2018/146, available at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

² See United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, "Guidelines: quick impact projects", 2017, reference number 2017.17.

23. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of four United Nations volunteer positions of Associate Political Affairs Officer (1 international and 3 national positions) to be located in the three eastern provinces (Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu). The international Associate Political Affairs Officer would support political engagement with the Government and parliament, and the national Associate Political Affairs Officers would support the political work of the Mission in the area of the protection of civilians and stabilization and provide support related to the 2023 elections ([A/75/769](#), paras. 101–103). **With a view to achieving greater national capacity-building through nationalization, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed post of Associate Political Affairs Officer (international United Nations Volunteer) be established as a national Professional Officer post.**

Staffing requirements related to the drawdown

24. Details with respect to the proposed abolishment of 113 posts and positions are provided in paragraphs 39, 56, 62, 70, 75, 76, 83, 97, 104, 105, 113 to 131, 168 and 170 of the budget document. With respect to the staffing changes related to the joint strategy and the closure of field offices (see paras. 13 and 14 above), the Advisory Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with further information on the proposed staffing changes as follows: (a) Kananga: abolishment of 57 posts and positions; retainment of 8 posts and positions to work with the United Nations country team; relocation of three posts and positions to other MONUSCO offices; (b) Tshikapa: abolishment of 9 posts and positions; retainment of 2 posts and positions to work with the country team; relocation of 1 post to another MONUSCO office; and (c) Kindu: relocation of 10 posts to other MONUSCO offices. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with the following table showing the posts and positions to be retained and/or relocated.

Posts and positions to be retained or moved to other locations

<i>Office/Section/Unit</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Proposed action</i>
Kananga			
Stabilization Support Unit	P-4	Program Management Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Stabilization Support Unit	P-3	Coordination Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Justice Support Section	P-3	Justice Support Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Justice Support Section	NPO	Associate Justice Support Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Political Affairs Division	GS	Programme Management Assistant	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Security and Safety Section	FS	Security Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Human Rights Section	P-3	Human Rights Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Human Rights Section	UNV	Human Rights Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team

<i>Office/Section/Unit</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Proposed action</i>
Civil Affairs Office	P-3	Civil Affairs Officer	Moved to Kalemie
Field Offices	UNV	Planning and Coordination Officer	Moved to Bukavu
Joint Mission Analysis Cell	NPO	Assistant Information Analyst	Moved to Goma
Tshikapa			
Joint Human Rights Office	P-2	Associate Human Rights Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Joint Human Rights Office	UNV	Human Rights Officer	Retained to work with the United Nations country team
Civil Affairs Office	P-3	Civil Affairs Officer	Moved to Kalemie
Kindu			
Political Affairs Division	P-3	Political Affairs Officer	Moved to Uvira
Security and Safety Section	NPO	Associate Security Coordinator	Moved to Goma
Joint Human Rights Office	P-3	Human Rights Officer	Moved to Goma
Radio Okapi	GS	Public Information Assistant	Moved to Kinshasa
Radio Okapi	GS	Public Information Assistant	Moved to Goma
Civil Affairs Office	NPO	Associate Civil Affairs Officer	Moved to Bukavu
Civil Affairs Office	GS	Liaison Assistant	Moved to Uvira
Civil Affairs Office	GS	Liaison Assistant	Moved to Aveba
Mission Support Center	GS	Logistic Assistant	Moved to Bunia
Field Administrative Offices	NPO	Associate Administrative Officer	Moved to Goma

Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; GS, General Service; NPO, National Professional Officer; UNV, United Nations Volunteer.

25. Upon further enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as part of the strategic planning process of the drawdown of MONUSCO, a mapping exercise of the functions required for the gradual drawdown in the Kasais, including with respect of the Kananga and Tshikapa locations, concluded that a residual capacity to analyse the politico-security context will benefit the programme development and implementation by the United Nations country team and that MONUSCO intends to maintain a coordination function in Kananga to support these efforts. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Kasais and Tanganyika provinces, which are the areas in which MONUSCO will phase out its presence, have been identified as pilots for the roll-out of the Mission's transfer of tasks and that discussions are ongoing to expand the approach to other provinces. However, the Committee notes that the Mission refers to the closure of field offices as adjustments already undertaken in areas in which the situation has improved to a level that can be managed by the

Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo without the support of MONUSCO (A/75/769, para. 6). The Committee notes furthermore that, while some explanations have been provided for the retention of posts and positions, no explanation has been furnished for their envisaged relocations. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that specific proposals accompanied with proper justifications should have been presented in the proposed budget for the retention or relocation of the posts or positions approved for the closed field offices. The Committee trusts that further information will be provided to the General Assembly during the consideration of the present report and that the planning assumptions and resource requirements of the drawdown will be presented in a consolidated manner in the budget proposal for the 2022/23 period (see also paras. 13 and 14 above).**

Staffing resources related to the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe

26. The Secretary-General also proposes the abolishment of 37 posts and positions as a result of the planned reduction of MONUSCO reliance on the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (*ibid.*, paras. 116, 120, 122, 126–131). The Advisory Committee discusses the role of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe for MONUSCO in paragraphs 40 to 42 below.

Vacancy rates

27. The table below provides a summary of the vacancy rates for civilian personnel for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as well as those proposed for 2021/22. The Committee notes the lack of justification for the application of rates that differ from the actual vacancy rates during the current period, as at 31 March 2021, as follows: (a) international staff: a vacancy rate of 11.5 per cent is projected, when the actual average is 12.1 per cent and the actual rate is 12.4 per cent; (b) national General Service staff: a vacancy rate of 4.6 per cent is projected, when the actual average is 5.0 per cent and the actual rate is 5.5 per cent; (c) international United Nations volunteers: a vacancy rate of 2.7 per cent is projected, when the actual average is 6.8 per cent and the actual rate is 9.8 per cent; and (d) national United Nations volunteers: a vacancy rate of 9.1 per cent is projected, when the actual average is 18.2 per cent and the actual rate is 27.3 per cent.

Category	Actual 2019/20	Approved 2020/21	Actual 31 January 2021	Actual 28 February 2021	Actual average 29 February 2021	Actual 31 March 2021	Actual average 31 March 2021	Proposed 2021/22
Civilian personnel								
International staff	11.8	11.4	12.1	13.1	12.1	12.4	12.1	11.5
<i>National staff</i>								
National Professional Officers	16.2	17.6	10.6	10.1	11.1	9.5	11.1	10.6
National General Service staff	4.1	4.1	5.3	5.3	4.9	5.5	5.0	4.6
<i>United Nations Volunteers</i>								
International United Nations Volunteers	6.0	9.6	8.9	9.2	6.6	9.8	6.8	2.7
National United Nations Volunteers	18.2	18.2	36.4	27.3	18.2	27.3	18.2	9.1
<i>Temporary positions^a</i>								
International	20.0	0.0	33.3	16.7	22.9	16.7	16.7	16.7
National Professional Officers	75.0	11.0	12.5	12.5	34.3	12.5	37.5	25.0
National General Service staff	2.2	4.1	2.2	4.3	2.7	4.3	2.2	0.7
Government-provided personnel	50.0	30.0	34.4	36.7	38.6	37.8	38.9	38.9

^a Funded under general temporary assistance.

28. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that proposed vacancy rates should be based, as much as possible, on actual rates. In cases in which the proposed rates differ from the actual rates, clear justification should be provided systematically in the proposed budget and related documents (A/74/737/Add.12, para. 16).**

Vacant posts

29. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that 173 posts were vacant as at 28 February 2021, including 12 vacant for two years or longer (1 P-3, 6 National Professional Officers and 5 national General Service). The Committee was also informed that 10 posts were in various stages of recruitment, including in preliminary or advanced stages of screening or candidate assessment, while no recruitment action had been taken with respect to 2 posts, as follows: (a) one Programme Management Assistant (national General Service) in the Gender Affairs Unit, vacant since 1 July 2016; and (b) one Associate Health and Safety Officer (national Professional Officer) in the Occupational Safety and Health Unit, vacant since 1 July 2018. **The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has reiterated its concern about the high number of vacancies in civilian staffing, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts are filled expeditiously (resolution 74/286, paras. 26 and 28). In the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to review those posts that have been vacant for 24 months or longer, and to propose in his next budget submission either their retention, with clear justification of need, or their abolishment (ibid., para. 28). In the absence of a rejustification for retention, the Committee recommends the abolishment of the posts of Programme Management Assistant (national General Service) in the Gender Affairs Unit, and of Associate Health and Safety Officer (national Professional Officer) in the Occupational Safety and Health Unit.**

30. With respect to common staff costs for 2021/22 in the amount of \$67,171,500, compared to expenditure in the amounts of \$57,588,600 and \$38,541,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21, respectively, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the lower expenditures experienced during 2019/20 and 2020/21 were largely due to the disruption of travel as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the postponement of entitlement travel, such as home leave or family leave. It is expected that travel restrictions will be progressively lifted during the 2021/22 period and that entitlement travel will resume.

31. **Subject to its observation in paragraph 40 below and its recommendations in paragraphs 21 to 23 and 29 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for civilian personnel. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

3. Operational costs

(Thousands of United States dollars; budget year is 1 July to 30 June)

Category	Expenditure (2019/20)	Apportionment (2020/21)	Expenditure as at 31 March 2021	Cost estimates (2021/22)	Variance	
					Amount	Percentage
	(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)=(3)-(2)	(5)=(4)÷(2)
Operational costs						
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consultants and consulting services	210.4	708.8	181.3	695.3	(13.5)	(1.9)
Official travel	3 583.3	5 444.9	1 911.9	4 812.4	(632.5)	(11.6)
Facilities and infrastructure	53 732.3	58 248.8	43 360.4	47 457.1	(10 791.7)	(18.5)
Ground transportation	12 572.3	13 657.2	10 216.9	10 191.9	(3 465.3)	(25.4)
Air operations	104 700.3	125 650.1	81 743.0	110 221.5	(15 428.6)	(12.3)
Marine operations	1 228.6	345.0	367.6	701.5	356.5	103.3
Communications and information technology	31 465.0	38 169.1	26 640.4	42 940.1	4 771.0	12.5
Medical	6 709.2	1 558.7	2 392.4	2 308.8	750.1	48.1
Special equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other supplies, services and equipment	41 591.9	45 970.7	31 991.4	45 807.9	(162.8)	(0.4)
Quick-impact projects	1 485.6	1 500.0	1 015.8	1 500.0	—	—
Total	257 278.9	291 253.3	199 821.1	266 636.5	(24 616.8)	(8.5)

32. The proposed decrease for 2021/22 reflects: (a) decreases under consultants and consulting services, official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, air operations, and other supplies, services and equipment; (b) increases under marine operations, communications and information technology, and medical; and (c) no resource changes under quick-impact projects (A/75/769, sects. II–III). The Advisory Committee will discuss matters concerning the acquisition of sea containers and mine action activities in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/75/822).

33. **While noting the overall reduced level proposed for the operational costs for 2021/22, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the provided justifications fully support the requirements listed below. Taking also into account underexpenditures and the likely continued impact of COVID-19, as well as the downsizing of MONUSCO, the Committee provides comments and recommends adjustments as follows:**

(a) Consultants and consulting services: the proposed resources of \$695,300 reflect a decrease of \$13,500 (1.9 per cent). As at 31 March 2021, total expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to \$181,300 against an apportionment of \$708,800. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the low level of expenditures in 2020/21 was incurred as the required expertise was identified within existing resources rather than using consultants. **The Advisory Committee trusts that efforts to utilize in-house capacity instead of consultants will continue and recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$69,500) to the proposed resources under consultants and consulting services;**

(b) Official travel: the proposed resources of \$4,812,400, reflect a decrease of \$632,500 (11.6 per cent). As at 31 March 2021, total expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to \$1,911,900 against an apportionment of \$5,444,900. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the reduced requirements are the result of less travel due to an increased number of online meetings and trainings, and that lessons learned with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic had been applied. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that greater use should be made of virtual meetings and online training tools and that travel for workshops, conferences or meetings should be kept to a minimum and, if proposed, detailed justifications should be provided. The Committee also emphasizes that travel should be budgeted in full accordance with the provisions of ST/SGB/2009/9 and ST/AI/2013/3. The Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent (\$721,900) to the proposed resources under official travel;**

(c) Facilities and infrastructure: the proposed resources of \$47,457,100, reflect a decrease of \$10,791,700 (18.5 per cent). As at 31 March 2021, total expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to \$43,360,400 against an apportionment of \$58,248,800. The Advisory Committee notes the relatively low implementation under several budget lines, including due to the downsizing of the mission. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted expenditure with respect to construction, alteration and renovation, causing a slowdown in the receipt of goods and supplies. The requirements under construction, alteration and renovation reflect ongoing 2020/21 projects, and no current projects will be deferred to the next budget period, including the construction work of the Beni hospital. The projects planned in 2021/22 relate to: (i) infrastructure for connection to hydropower for several sites in Goma, Bukavu and Beni; (ii) the replacement of dilapidated prefabricated troop accommodations; (iii) the maintenance of roads and environmental projects, including the improvement of existing septic tanks, soak pits and ablution units; and (iv) the improvement of military camps. **The Advisory Committee, taking into consideration the underexpenditure in certain budget lines, and considering that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact global supply chains in 2021/22 and the ability of the Mission to receive required materials and supplies, therefore recommends a reduction of 7 per cent (\$3,322,000) to the proposed resources under facilities and infrastructure. Furthermore, the Committee trusts that the Mission will improve its project planning, including with a multi-year acquisition plan, which will help to justify the resource requirements;**

(d) Communications and information technology: the proposed resources of \$42,940,100 reflect an increase of \$4,771,000 (12.5 per cent). As at 31 March 2021, total expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to \$26,640,400 against an apportionment of \$38,169,100. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed resources include an amount of approximately \$10 million for the annual cost of equipment for the Geolocation Threat Analysis Unit and that, following the adoption by the General Assembly of a MONUSCO budget for 2020/21 of approximately \$12.4 million below the Secretary-General's proposal, the Mission had to revise its assumptions and decided to delay the deployment of the Unit to 1 January 2021, halving the related requirements to \$5 million for 2020/21; these expenditures have not yet been recorded in the 2020/21 period. **Notwithstanding the delayed deployment of the equipment used by the Geolocation Threat Analysis Unit, the Advisory Committee considers that the proposed increase in the resources for communications and information technology is not fully justified, and therefore recommends a reduction of 5 per cent (\$2,147,000) to the proposed resources;**

(e) Other supplies, services and equipment: the proposed resources of \$45,807,900, reflect a decrease of \$162,800 (0.4 per cent). As at 31 March 2021, total

expenditure for 2020/21 amounted to \$31,991,400 against an apportionment of \$45,970,700. The proposed resources for 2021/22 under other freight and related costs amount to \$12,213,900, with an expenditure of \$6,076,008 as at 31 March 2021, against an apportionment of \$12,316,500. **In view of the expected impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2021/22 period and its impact on global freight services, and the underexpenditure in 2020/21, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$1,221,400) to the proposed resources under other freight and related costs.**

Unmanned aerial systems

34. The Advisory Committee recalls that during the 2019/20 period, MONUSCO renewed its unmanned aerial systems capabilities with a new and cost-effective unmanned aerial systems service aimed at improved performance and sensors. The new contract commenced on 29 January 2020, providing for 2,000 flight hours per year, with a provision for financial adjustments based on low reliability after each contract year ([A/74/737/Add.12](#), para. 23). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that full operational capability was reached in August 2020, with an 80 per cent utilization rate during the 2020/21 period, compared to 35 per cent in 2017/18; 52 per cent (old contract) and 39 per cent (new contract) 2018/19; and 18 per cent in the 2019/20 period. The Committee was also informed that the utilization of the unmanned aerial systems is determined by the demand from the force, and that since MONUSCO demand drives their utilization, there are no deductions for underutilization. Furthermore, the current contract makes provision for a financial deduction if the average annual reliability of the system is below 95 per cent, with the reliability of the unmanned aerial systems measured monthly and the financial penalty applied annually. During the contractual period from January 2020 to January 2021, the reliability rate was 94.5 per cent and a penalty of 35,108.85 euros was consequently applied. Furthermore, the application of the reliability clause is not factored into the budget proposal for the 2021/22 period, as it is expected that the reliability will be in line with the contractual threshold of 95 per cent.

35. **The Advisory Committee notes that no deduction is applied for underutilization and that a financial deduction is only applied when the average annual reliability of the system is below 95 per cent. Taking into consideration that MONUSCO demand drives the utilization of unmanned aerial systems, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to evaluate the utilization of the unmanned aerial systems, and to review the contractual arrangement to include a provision for deduction due to underutilization, and provide an update thereon in the context of the next budget submission.** The Advisory Committee will discuss matters concerning unmanned aerial systems in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/75/822](#)).

36. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 31 and 33 (a) to (e) above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.**

V. Other matters

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

37. The MONUSCO COVID-19 response during the 2019/20 period is described in paragraphs 28 to 35 of the performance report. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that MONUSCO has provided multisectoral support and a range of measures to the Government and the population, including: (a) good offices

and support to the national COVID-19 task force; (b) supporting Government and provincial planning, including logistics support and the integration of a gender perspective; (c) the Radio Okapi school programme and working with local radio on COVID-19 sensitization broadcasts; (d) supporting correctional institutions in limiting the spread of COVID-19; and (e) United Nations police support for contact tracing of COVID-19 cases. The Committee was furthermore informed that alternate working arrangements permitted telecommuting from outside of the Mission area and that in April 2020, 100 staff members (national and international) were telecommuting from outside of the Mission area, with currently 13 staff telecommuting from outside of the Mission area. Also, effective 7 September 2020, alternate working arrangements outside of the Mission area were terminated but are continuing within the Mission area.

38. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has noted with grave concern the threat to life, health, safety and security caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the importance of ensuring the safety, security and health of peacekeeping personnel, maintaining the continuity of critical mandate delivery, including protection of civilians, minimizing the risk of Mission activities causing the virus to spread and, where appropriate and within mandates, supporting national authorities, upon their request, in their response to COVID-19, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator and other United Nations entities in the country (resolution 74/286, para. 15). The Committee trusts that updated information will be provided in the next performance report and the next budget submission.

Cost recovery

39. The Advisory Committee was informed that, during the 2019/20 period, an amount of \$9,674,154 was recovered, as miscellaneous income, for support provided to United Nations and non-United Nations entities. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that only an amount of \$534,518 was credited as miscellaneous income and was non-spendable, while the remaining amount of \$9,139,636 was credited back to MONUSCO accounts. It is also indicated that, of the \$9.14 million spendable amount, \$8.31 million was reallocated to the Mission. The non-spendable amount is included in the table in section D, other revenue and adjustments under “other/miscellaneous revenue”. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that non-spendable revenue generated, including that from the use of MONUSCO flights on a space-availability basis, should be returned to Member States. The Committee trusts that further clarification will be provided on the amounts credited as miscellaneous income and in the Mission’s accounts to the General Assembly during the consideration of the present report.** The Committee has made comments and recommendations on cost recovery in its related report pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/75/829, paras. 33–36) and discusses the matter further in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/75/822).

Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre

40. The Secretary-General indicates that the Mission will reduce its reliance on the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe for the rotation of troops, as MONUSCO has sufficient transit camps, and that the improved and extended runway in Goma will allow the landing and take-off of wide-body aircraft for troop rotation. Furthermore, MONUSCO will be less reliant on mission-operated flights to Entebbe for rest and recuperation owing to the fact that, as is the practice in other missions, it will instead

pay a lump sum for travel to the designated rest and recuperation destination, Entebbe. The Secretary-General indicates furthermore that MONUSCO will also review options to increase the number of direct deliveries of commodities to the Democratic Republic of the Congo instead of receiving items through Entebbe in order to reduce requirements for warehousing, handling, freight forwarding and distribution ([A/75/769](#), para. 36). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that of the total number of posts proposed for abolishment, 37 posts are MONUSCO posts based in Entebbe that provide services to MONUSCO in the functional areas of air operations, ground transport, movement control, supply, warehousing and field technology services, as well as support to MONUSCO flights, supply chain deliveries and rotation of troops. In addition, it is planned to achieve economies of scale and efficiency gains by conducting all rotations through Goma, with the closure of the Bujumbura transit camp, the discontinuation of troops rotation through Kigali and the reduced reliance on the Entebbe transit camp expected to result in annual savings of \$674,000. Further efficiency gains as a result from the suspension of air transportation with the Mission's aircraft for rest and recuperation is expected to result in the reduction of one fixed-wing aircraft, resulting in anticipated additional annual savings of \$3.4 million.

41. The Advisory Committee notes the information provided but is of the view that a full assessment could have been provided. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present for consideration in the context of the budget proposal for 2022/23 the cost-benefit analysis for the retention and the move of services from Entebbe, and details on the actual efficiency gains, including with respect to lump-sum payments for rest and recuperation, as well as further information on the rationale, and associated costs, for retaining the management of facilities and infrastructure in the Regional Service Centre.

42. With respect to the status of the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre within the Regional Service Centre, the Advisory Committee was informed that a comprehensive study was completed of the roles and responsibilities of the former, the Strategic Air Operations Centre located in the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the Global Procurement Support Section of the Department of Operational Support, located in Entebbe, and that it is envisaged that the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre would evolve into a Forward Support and Deployment Hub. Furthermore, a detailed concept proposal has been presented in the context of the budget proposal 2021/22 for the Regional Service Centre ([A/75/770](#)), and a summary of findings in the overview report of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations ([A/75/786](#)). **The Advisory Committee trusts that information on any changes that may affect MONUSCO operations, also in the context of the envisaged drawdown and its aforementioned reduced use of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, will be presented in future budget proposals, as appropriate.** The Committee provides further comments on the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/75/822](#)).

Environmental initiatives

43. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, a number of environmental projects are proposed for 2021/22, including improvements to existing septic tanks, soak pits and ablution units, and improvements to camps for military contingents and formed police units as part of the implementation of the mission-wide environmental action plan, in line with the environment strategy. Furthermore, efficiency gains are expected, inter alia, as a result of the installation of solar farms in mission sites in Goma to reduce the cost of utilities ([A/75/769](#), paras. 110 and 133). **The Advisory**

Committee notes the environmental initiatives and trusts that detailed information on progress, including scopes, outputs, and start and end dates of the activities, will be provided in future budget proposals. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly has noted the progress made in the implementation of the multi-year environmental strategy to reduce the footprint of peacekeeping operations, and requested the Secretary-General to enhance measures for the implementation of the strategy in all peacekeeping missions, in line with the five pillars of the strategy, in accordance with particular conditions on the ground and in full compliance with the relevant regulations and rules, and guidelines, and to report thereon on the next overview report (resolution 74/286, para. 17). The Advisory Committee provides its observations on environmental activities in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/75/822).

Quick-impact projects

44. Information on quick-impact projects is provided in paragraphs 159 to 161 of the proposed budget, and such projects will continue to be a confidence-building tool shared between the Congolese population and MONUSCO in areas in which the Mission has established a presence. In the 2021/22 period, the quick-impact projects will continue to include the provision of lighting through the installation of solar panels for markets and key public areas; the construction or rehabilitation of critical health centres, school buildings and water points; the construction and provision of equipment to vocational training centres; bridge repairs; and the rehabilitation of Congolese National Police stations or outposts and administration buildings (A/75/769). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Mission should improve overall planning and conduct regular assessments of the projects.³ The Committee considers that, building on best practices and lessons learned from the assessments, resources should be deployed to the most impactful projects. The Committee trusts that updated and detailed information on the project planning and assessment of the implemented projects will be presented in the context of the next budget submission.**

Programmatic activities

45. The General Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Mission is responsible and accountable for the use of its programmatic funds, in line with relevant guidance and bearing in mind the specific context in which the Mission operates, and to include, in his next budget submission and performance report, detailed information on the programmatic activities of the Mission (resolution 74/286, para. 19). The Secretary-General indicates that an amount of \$11,051,000 is proposed for the 2021/22 period for the implementation of a range of programmatic activities, such as confidence-building measures, community stabilization projects, violence reduction, human rights, rule of law/security institutions, and small arms and light weapons management (A/75/769, paras. 148–158). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that demining activities are undertaken by the Mine Action Service, through its implementing partner, the United Nations Office for Project Services, in instances in which military contingents do not have the equipment or capability to perform demining for operational tasks. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that an implementation plan with medium- to long-term projects for the implementation of programmatic activities should be developed. The Committee also considers that the projects should be assessed regularly and, based on the best practices and lessons learned, resources should be deployed to the most impactful projects. The Committee trusts that detailed information on the**

³ See United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support, “Guidelines: quick impact projects”, 2017, reference number 2017.17.

projects assessment and lessons learned will be presented in the context of the next budget submission.

Gender balance

46. Information provided to the Advisory Committee upon enquiry indicates that, as at 31 December 2020, the percentage of female staff at MONUSCO was 29.8 per cent against a target of 42 per cent, as follows: 25 per cent at the D-2 level; 31 per cent at the D-1 level; 33 per cent at the P-5 level; 30 per cent at the P-4 level; 29 per cent at the P-3 level; 35 per cent at the P-2 level; and 29 per cent in the Field Service category. The Committee was also informed that women are more likely to resign from MONUSCO than men, with separation data from 2019 showing that 13 per cent of women resigned, as compared to 3 per cent of men. The Committee was also informed that discussions are ongoing to explore ways to reach out more to qualified women, including through external outreach, and to adopt special temporary measures as per the administrative instruction entitled “Temporary special measures for the achievement of gender parity” (ST/AI/2020/5). **The Advisory Committee notes the underrepresentation of women among MONUSCO staff and trusts that the Mission will pursue further efforts to enhance the representation of female staff, and that information thereon will be provided in future reports.** The Advisory Committee discusses gender balance further in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/75/822).

Nationalization

47. The General Assembly, in its resolution 74/286, paragraph 24, requested the Secretary-General to consider options for greater nationalization of functions when formulating budget submissions, commensurate with mission mandates and requirements. The Secretary-General indicates that MONUSCO is adopting a sustainable approach to the nationalization of posts, which is considered especially important in the context of the drawdown and handing over of responsibilities to national counterparts (see paras. 13 and 14 above), and that four posts and positions have been proposed for nationalization in 2021/22 (A/75/769, section V.A and B). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that national staff are considered critical and can perform insights-based engagement and monitoring with some interlocutors who might not exchange sensitive information with foreign United Nations staff. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the importance of building national capacity, especially in view of the transition and drawdown of the Mission, and trusts that future budget submissions will present higher numbers of posts and positions proposed for nationalization (A/74/737/Add.12, para. 15).** The Advisory Committee provides further observations on nationalization in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/75/822).

VI. Conclusion

48. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MONUSCO for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 are indicated in paragraph 123 of the performance report (A/75/605). **Subject to its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

- (a) **Appropriate an additional amount of \$23,839,200 to the Special Account for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, representing additional resources authorized under the commitment**

authority which were utilized and not assessed in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2020;

(b) Taking into account the amount of \$1,012,252,800 already assessed on Member States under the terms of its resolution [73/315](#), apply other revenue in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2020 in the total amount of \$15,521,100 from investment revenue (\$2,829,100), other/miscellaneous revenue (\$2,206,800), the cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$9,786,400) against the shortfall in assessment for the same period, and the increase in the staff assessment income (\$698,800) for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019;

(c) Assess the additional amount of \$8,318,100, representing the difference between the increase in appropriation (\$23,839,200) and other revenue (\$14,822,300) for the period ended 30 June 2020, as well as the increase in the staff assessment income (\$698,800) for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

49. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MONUSCO for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 are indicated in paragraph 186 of the proposed budget ([A/75/769](#)). **Subject to its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$7,929,700, from \$1,054,608,600 to \$1,046,678,900. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$1,046,678,900 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.**
