



# General Assembly

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### Proposed programme budget for 2022

## Proposed programme budget for 2022

### Part II

#### Political affairs

### Section 3

#### Political affairs

#### Special political missions

#### United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

### Sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2022

## I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#)). The Advisory Committee held its first meetings in July and August 2021 in order to discuss the report and decided to defer further discussions as the situation in the Mission area continued to be fluid. The Committee subsequently initiated an exchange of letters with the Secretary-General in order to obtain more clarity on the way forward with respect to the operational and financial needs of UNAMA. On 1 October, the Committee received a letter from the Controller describing the way forward with respect to UNAMA in view of the developments on the ground (see paras. 6 and 7). During this process of considering the UNAMA report, the Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 14 October.

2. The Secretary-General, in addendum 1 to section 3, Political affairs, of his report on the proposed programme budget for 2022 ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for 38 special political

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missions and related cross-cutting issues. Detailed information in respect of each special political mission is contained in six addenda to section 3 of the proposed programme budget.<sup>1</sup> The addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and, in the present report, UNAMA.

3. The resource requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar (cluster I), whose mandate emanates from the General Assembly, are included in the report of the Secretary-General under cluster I, in order to consolidate the overall resource requirements for all special political missions, while the mandate of the Office will be brought to the attention of the Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

4. The Advisory Committee addresses issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to special political missions in its main report (A/76/7/Add.1), while its specific comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III (including revised estimates pertaining to the latter) and UNAMI are presented in separate related reports, and those for UNAMA in the present report.

## **II. Budget performance for 2020 and 2021 and resource requirements for 2022**

### **A. Mandate and planning assumptions**

5. The budget proposal for UNAMA for 2022 was based on the provisions of Security Council resolution 2543 (2020), in which the Council extended the mandate of UNAMA until 17 September 2021. The Council subsequently decided, in its resolution 2596 (2021), to extend the mandate of UNAMA for six months until 17 March 2022 and requested the Secretary-General to submit a written report to it by 31 January 2022 on strategic and operational recommendations for the mandate of UNAMA, in the light of recent political, security and social developments. It also requested the Secretary-General to provide it with a briefing on the situation in Afghanistan and the work of UNAMA every other month until 17 March 2022. The Council stressed the critical importance of a continued presence of UNAMA and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes across Afghanistan and called upon all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed in the aforementioned letter of 1 October submitted by the Controller that, effective 15 August 2021, in view of the prevailing security situation at the Kabul office, the Department of Safety and Security had authorized the evacuation of designated United Nations international personnel to Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Committee was also informed that in September 2021, following a review of the prevailing security environment and based on the outcome of the revised security risk management process, the Department had authorized the return of designated nationally recruited personnel to five field locations. At present, personnel at the temporary office in Almaty continue to support and deliver the Mission's mandate, and UNAMA has established an air bridge connecting Almaty to Islamabad, and onwards to Afghanistan, to allow for the movements of international personnel.

<sup>1</sup> A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2, A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.3, A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.4, A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.5, A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6 and A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.7.

7. With respect to the financial requirements, the Advisory Committee was informed that the recent developments had resulted in additional resource requirements in 2021, related primarily to the relocation of designated national staff and their eligible dependants from field offices, as well as designated personnel under security evacuation status outside Afghanistan. Furthermore, during 2021, the Mission continued its lower footprint in Afghanistan, necessitated since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began in early 2020, and there would be reduced requirements for danger pay, a lower number of rest and recuperation payments, reduced official travel and non-hiring of consultants. The Committee was informed that, as the UNAMA mandate will continue unchanged until at least 17 March 2022, the Secretary-General considers that the proposed budget for 2022 for UNAMA would remain applicable for mandate delivery and operations. In the event of any changes to the Mission's mandate following the adoption of a new resolution by the Security Council, any revised estimates, if required, would be presented to the General Assembly during its resumed seventy-sixth session or the main part of its seventy-seventh session.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that the current budget proposal does not take fully into account such external factors as the prevailing security situation, including the impact on the deployment of staff, as described in the aforementioned letter of the Controller to the Committee. Taking also into consideration that a review of the UNAMA mandate by the Security Council will take place in the first quarter of 2022, the Committee, noting the current patterns of expenditure, therefore considers that the planning assumptions as presented in the current budget proposal for 2022, without the full implications of mandate implementation and the current operational reality, may not be realistic. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, in the amount of up to \$107,636,800 for UNAMA for the 10-month period from 1 January to 31 October 2022 (see also paras. 35 and 36 below).

## B. Information on resources for 2020, 2021 and 2022

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for UNAMA, compared with the resources approved for 2020 and 2021, as well as the expenditure incurred in 2020 and in the period from January to September 2021, as summarized in table 1.

Table 1  
Budget performance and total resource requirements (net of staff assessment)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2020		2021		2022		Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure 1 June to 30 September	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	2022 budget vs. 2021 appropriation Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)		(2)		(3)	(4)	(5)=(3)-(-2)
Military and police personnel costs	41.5	24.2	41.5	(5.2)	41.5	–	–
Civilian personnel costs	94 377.4	95 687.3	98 285.1	69 412.8	97 638.8	–	(646.3)
Operational costs	40 371.3	39 600.8	38 548.6	31 673.0	37 458.9	–	(1 089.7)
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>134 790.2</b>	<b>135 312.4</b>	<b>136 875.2</b>	<b>101 080.5</b>	<b>135 139.1</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(1 736.0)</b>

10. Expenditure in 2020 amounted to \$135,312,400 against an appropriation of \$134,790,200, reflecting an implementation rate of 100.4 per cent. As at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$101,080,500 against an appropriation of \$136,875,200, reflecting a 73.8 per cent implementation rate as at that date. The Advisory Committee notes that expenditure under many budget categories is low, while the trend shows the likelihood of overexpenditure under United Nations Volunteers, acquisition of prefabricated facilities, accommodation and refrigeration equipment, rental of premises, security services, construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance, rental and operation of helicopters, maintenance of communications and information technology equipment and support services, medical, individual contractual services and other services. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on the 2021 budget expenditure and related justifications to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the revised estimates report.**

### C. Proposed resource requirements for 2022

11. As shown in table 1, the resource requirements proposed for UNAMA for 2022 amount to \$135,139,100, reflecting a decrease of \$1,736,000, or 1.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$136,875,200 for 2021. The decrease is the net effect of the requirements for: (a) civilian personnel costs, attributable to the application of a higher vacancy rate of 8 per cent, compared with 6 per cent in 2021 for international staff, and reduced common staff costs, from 83 per cent of net salaries in 2021 to 80 per cent in 2022, partially offset by increased requirements related to a number of proposed staffing changes (see table 2 and paras. 14–19); and (b) operational costs, mainly under facilities and infrastructure and air operations, partly offset by higher requirements under communications and information technology and medical. A summary of the main factors contributing to the variances between the approved resources for 2021 and the proposed resources for 2022 is provided in section I.B.4 of the report of the Secretary-General. As also indicated in section A above, as the current UNAMA mandate will continue at least until 17 March 2022, the Secretary-General considers that the proposed budget for 2022 would, at this time, remain applicable for mandate delivery and operations in 2022.

#### 1. Military and police personnel

12. The proposed requirements for military and police personnel for 2022 for the costs related to the deployment of one military observer amount to \$41,500, representing no change compared with the appropriation for 2021 ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#), para. 75). **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed resources under military and police personnel and trusts that an update will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report.**

## 2. Civilian personnel

Table 2  
Staffing requirements

	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Level</i>
Approved positions for 2021	1 163	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 28 P-5, 55 P-4, 58 P-3, 6 P-2, 137 FS, 1 GS (OL), 125 NPO, 674 LL, 68 UNV
Proposed positions for 2022	1 199	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 28 P-5, 55 P-4, 58 P-3, 5 P-2, 138 FS, 1 GS (OL), 127 NPO, 676 LL, 100 UNV
Proposed establishment	14	2 NPO, 2 LL, 10 UNV
Proposed abolishment	4	4 UNV
Proposed conversion	29	3 international UNV to 3 national UNV, 26 extrabudgetary UNV to regular budget UNV
Proposed reclassification	1	P-2 to FS
Proposed reassignment	7	2 FS, 5 LL
Proposed redeployment	25	2 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 FS, 2 NPO, 13 LL

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

13. A summary of the staffing requirements and the proposed changes is presented in paragraphs 44 to 74 of and annexes II and III to the report of the Secretary-General. As summarized in table 2, the total proposed staffing complement of 1,199 positions, which comprises 296 international positions (157 Professional and above, 138 Field Service and 1 General Service (Other level)), 803 national positions (127 National Professional Officer and 676 Local level) and 100 United Nations Volunteers, represents a net increase of 36 positions compared with the approved staffing for 2021. The report of the Secretary-General contains organizational charts showing the proposed staffing grades and levels in annex IV and the proposed allocation of the positions by location in annex III. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that alternative working arrangements had been implemented for international personnel in March 2020, from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and were currently continuing, owing also in good part to the deteriorating security situation. **The Advisory Committee considers that actual staffing needs should be determined after the staffing requirements of UNAMA become clearer in the event of any changes to the current mandate, ending on 17 March 2022, following the adoption of a new resolution by the Security Council. The Committee trusts that an update of the actual locations, including details with respect to the alternative working arrangements, of UNAMA staff will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the revised estimates report.**

### *Establishment*

14. The establishment of the following positions is proposed: one Political Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer), one Associate Political Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer), two Finance and Budget Assistants (Local level), four Medical Officers (United Nations Volunteer) and six Paramedics (United Nations Volunteer). **The Advisory Committee considers that 31 positions at the same levels are currently vacant (11 National Professional Officer and 20 Local level) and, also taking into consideration the fluid situation in the Mission, recommends, at**

**this stage, against the establishment of 2 National Professional Officer and 2 Local level positions.**

*Conversion*

15. The conversion from extrabudgetary resources to regular budget funding of the following 26 national United Nations Volunteer positions is proposed: 3 Field Security Assistants in the Security Section, 2 Judicial Affairs Assistants in the Political Affairs Service in Kabul, 4 Political Affairs Assistants in the Political Affairs Service in Kabul, 1 Peace and Reconciliation Assistant in the Peace and Reconciliation Office in Kabul, 1 Human Resources Assistant, 1 Administration and Programme Assistant and 1 Administration and Coordination Assistant in the Human Resources and Training Section, 2 Information Management Assistants in the Field Technology Section, 1 Assistant Procurement Officer in the Procurement Unit, 1 Data Management Assistant in the Transport Unit, 1 Facilities Management Assistant in the Engineering and Facilities Maintenance Section, 1 Political Affairs Assistant and 1 Human Rights Assistant in the Kabul regional office, 1 Political Affairs Assistant in the Balkh (Mazar-e Sharif) regional office, 1 Political Affairs Assistant in the Nangarhar (Jalalabad) regional office, 1 Political Affairs Assistant in the Paktiya (Gardez) regional office, 1 Political Affairs Assistant in the Bamyan provincial office, 1 Political Affairs Assistant in the Faryab (Maymana) provincial office and 1 Political Affairs Assistant in the Baghlan (Pul-e Khumri) provincial office.

16. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the positions pertained to extrabudgetary national youth United Nations Volunteer positions, encumbered by national women, and managed under the United Nations Volunteer programme. The Committee was also informed that, with the support of the Department of Peacebuilding and Political Affairs, the Mission had implemented the national youth project for female national university graduates in order to give them on-the-job training, strengthen their technical and professional skills and provide them with professional work experience, aimed at bringing Afghan women's voices to the peace and reconciliation process, human rights monitoring and inclusive decision-making process, in accordance with the current mandate. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that, with the overall reduction in extrabudgetary resources, it would not be possible to continue the national youth project beyond 2021.

**17. Taking into consideration the currently fluid situation on the ground and the potential review of the UNAMA mandate by the Security Council early in 2022, the Advisory Committee recommends, at this time, against the conversion from extrabudgetary resources to regular budget funding of 26 national United Nations Volunteer positions (see paras. 8 and 13 above). The Committee nonetheless considers that there is a need for UNAMA to facilitate the longer-term career paths of female national United Nations Volunteers and encourage them in the United Nations application process for the currently vacant positions, which represent a range of occupational groups (see para. 20 below).**

18. The Advisory Committee recognizes that the national youth project has provided an opportunity for female United Nations Volunteers to gain valuable technical and professional skills and work experience in an international organization setting. The Committee trusts that efforts will continue to obtain sustainable and reliable extrabudgetary funding for the 26 United Nations Volunteer positions under the national youth project and looks forward to an update thereon in the revised estimates report.

*Reassignment, redeployment and reclassification*

19. The Advisory Committee notes the proposed reassignment of 7 positions (2 Field Service and 5 Local level), the redeployment of 25 positions (2 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 Field Service, 2 National Professional Officer and 13 Local level) and the reclassification of 1 P-2 position to 1 Field Service position, and trusts that further justifications will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report (see paras. 8 and 13 above).

*Vacant positions, vacancy rates and special post allowance*

20. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 11 October 2021, there were 86 vacant positions: 21 Professional and above (2 P-5, 8 P-4, 9 P-3 and 2 P-2), 13 Field Service, 11 National Professional Officer, 30 Local level and 11 United Nations Volunteer. A total of nine positions (2 Field Service, 5 Local level and 2 National Professional Officer) had been vacant for over two years, with the recruitment for five positions (2 Field Service, 2 Local level and 1 National Professional Officer) on hold as UNAMA aims to ensure that it remains at or near the approved vacancy rates. The other four positions were in various stages of recruitment. **The Advisory Committee trusts that all vacant positions will be filled expeditiously, including with female national United Nations Volunteers and other female national applicants in order to improve the gender balance at UNAMA, and that an update on the recruitment status, including on the long-vacant positions, will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission.**

21. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on the approved positions and vacancy rates, actual vacancy rates as at 30 September 2021 and average vacancy rates from January to September 2021, as well as the proposed positions and budgeted vacancy rates for 2022 for UNAMA, as follows:

Table 3  
Number of positions and vacancy rates, 2021–2022

Category	Approved positions 2021	Approved vacancy rate (percentage) 2021	Vacancy rate as at 30 September 2021	Average vacancy rate (percentage) January– September 2021	Proposed positions 2022	Proposed vacancy rate (percentage) 2022
International staff	296	6	12	13	296	8
National Professional Officer	125	3	9	9	127	3
National staff (Local level)	674	3	4	4	676	3
United Nations Volunteer	68	7	16	14	100	7

22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that four positions were currently encumbered temporarily by staff members receiving a special post allowance, three for more than one year. The Committee discusses the use of special post allowance in its report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/76/7/Add.1), as well as in its report on the proposed programme budget for 2022 (A/76/7, chap. I, para. 48).

23. With respect to danger pay, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that for both international and national staff combined, for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$8,395,400; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$5,092,800 against the appropriation of \$9,931,800, while for 2022 an amount of \$9,755,900 is proposed. **Taking into consideration the underexpenditure**

projected for 2021 and the revised assumptions of low expenditure in 2022 (see paras. 5–8 above), the Advisory Committee recommends that a reduction of \$2,834,000, or 35 per cent, on the basis of 83 per cent of the proposed resources, be applied for 10 months of resources, from 1 January to 31 October 2022, under danger pay for both international and national staff combined.

24. The Advisory Committee notes that the adjustments in paragraphs 14, 17 and 23 above on the staffing proposals for UNAMA would result in related resources for the period from 1 January to 31 October 2022 in the amount of \$77,656,200, reflecting reduced requirements in the amount of \$3,384,000, with related non-post resources to be adjusted accordingly (see paras. 27, 35 and 36 below).

### 3. Operational costs

25. The proposed resource requirements for operational costs for 2022 amount to \$37,458,900, reflecting a decrease of \$1,089,700, or 2.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2021 in the amount of \$38,548,600. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the operational costs for UNAMA, including the appropriation and expenditure for 2020, appropriation for 2021 and expenditure up to 30 September 2021, as well as proposed requirements for 2022, as shown in table 4.

Table 4  
**Operational costs**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2020		2021		Requirements for 2022		Variance 2022–2021 Increase/(decrease)
	Expenditure	Appropriation	Actual expenditure as at 30 September	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Amount	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(4)-(2)	
1. Consultants and consulting services	19.2	116.3	13.7	110.0	–	(6.3)	
2. Official travel	307.1	948.0	1 915.3	886.4	–	(61.6)	
3. Facilities and infrastructure	21 223.6	23 358.2	19 807.8	21 325.7	–	(2 032.5)	
4. Ground transportation	2 104.2	576.3	179.8	467.8	–	(108.5)	
5. Air operations	6 102.8	6 950.8	5 461.8	6 499.1	–	(451.7)	
6. Communications and information technology	6 173.1	5 330.9	3 066.7	5 937.0	–	606.1	
7. Medical	248.3	214.4	281.3	1 256.9	–	1 042.5	
8. Other supplies, services and equipment	3 422.4	1 053.7	946.6	976.0	–	(77.7)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>39 600.8</b>	<b>38 548.6</b>	<b>31 673.0</b>	<b>37 458.9</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(1 089.7)</b>	

26. The Advisory Committee considers that the proposed operational resources for the entire 12-month period of 2022 do not reflect the current operational realities on the ground (see paras. 5–8 above and 35 and 36 below). The Committee provides the following comments with respect to the operational resources of UNAMA:

(a) Consultants and consulting services: for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$19,200; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$13,700



against the appropriation of \$116,300 while, for 2022, an amount of \$110,000 is proposed. **The Advisory Committee considers that expenditure is expected to be significantly lower in the foreseeable future and recommends that a reduction of \$32,000, or 35 per cent, on the basis of 83 per cent of the proposed resources, be applied for 10 months of resources under consultants and consulting services;**

(b) Official travel, training: for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$11,900; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$12,300 against the appropriation of \$133,700 while, for 2022, an amount of \$170,300 is proposed. **The Advisory Committee considers that regular training activities are unlikely to resume in the short term and recommends that a reduction of \$49,500, or 35 per cent, on the basis of 83 per cent of the proposed resources, be applied for 10 months of resources under official travel;**

(c) Ground transportation: for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$2,104,200; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$179,800 against the appropriation of \$576,300 while, for 2022, an amount of \$467,800 is proposed. **The Advisory Committee considers that activities related to ground transportation are unlikely to proceed as planned in the short term and recommends that a reduction of \$77,700, or 20 per cent, on the basis of 83 per cent of the proposed resources, be applied for 10 months of resources under ground transportation;**

(d) Communications and information technology: for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$6,173,100; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$3,066,700 against the appropriation of \$5,330,900 while, for 2022, an amount of \$5,937,000 is proposed. **The Advisory Committee considers that activities related to communications and information technology are unlikely to proceed as planned in the short term and recommends that a reduction of \$985,500, or 20 per cent, on the basis of 83 per cent of the proposed resources, be applied for 10 months of resources under communications and information technology.**

27. With respect to facilities and infrastructure, for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$21,223,600; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$19,807,800 against the appropriation of \$23,358,200 while, for 2022, an amount of \$21,325,700 is proposed. For security services, actual expenditure in 2020 amounted to \$10,493,400 and as at 30 September 2021 to \$9,767,700 against the appropriation of \$10,329,100 while, for 2022, an amount of \$9,780,300 is proposed. For the rental of premises, actual expenditure in 2020 amounted to \$3,447,800 and as at 30 September 2021 to \$3,291,100 against the appropriation of \$3,134,900 while, for 2022, an amount of \$3,074,100 is proposed. For construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance, actual expenditures in 2020 amounted to \$1,886,400 and as at 30 September 2021 to \$2,613,600 against the appropriation of \$505,600 while, for 2022, an amount of \$415,000 is proposed. With the exception of security services, rental of premises and construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance, for 2020, actual expenditure amounted to \$5,396,000; as at 30 September 2021, expenditure amounted to \$4,135,400 against the appropriation of \$9,388,600 while, for 2022, an amount of \$8,056,300 is proposed.

28. **The Advisory Committee notes that its recommendations in paragraphs 24 and 26 for UNAMA would result in operational resources, for the period from 1 January to 31 October 2022, in the amount of \$29,946,200, reflecting reduced requirements, including adjustments related to non-post resources, in the amount of \$1,144,700.**

## D. Other matters

### 1. Cost-sharing arrangements

29. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, with respect to costs associated with administrative, budget and finance, human resources and logistical support provided by UNAMA to the United Nations country team, security personnel and any other entities, UNAMA leases out office and living spaces and cost-shares the operating of compounds with the tenants. Furthermore, on the basis of signed memorandums of understanding, an estimated \$2.6 million is projected to be recovered in 2021 for these services from country team entities. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide to the General Assembly, at the time of its consideration of the present report, an update on payments made, as well as those projected for 2022.**

30. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that United Nations agencies, funds and programmes initially agreed, in principle, in 2020 to cost-share 39 Field Security Radio Operators (Local level) but later determined that they would not contribute to the costs in 2021. The Committee was also informed that UNAMA continues its efforts to reach an agreement regarding the overnight radio room services and for services required for periodic ad hoc visits. Furthermore, the Department of Safety and Security is working with UNAMA and the entities on an agreement to consolidate field office radio rooms in lieu of the current set-up of multiple radio rooms. In the meantime, UNAMA will continue to pay the full cost of the 39 Field Security Radio Operators. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the need for UNAMA to continue its efforts to formalize cost-sharing arrangements of security-related support provided to agencies, funds and programmes. It also reiterates its view that the Secretary-General, in his role as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, should provide related support in order for the Mission's efforts to succeed (A/75/7/Add.6, para. 28). The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide an update thereon in the next budget submission.**

31. The Advisory Committee recalls that UNAMA shares the cost for joint medical services with agencies, funds and programmes located in Kabul and that the medical emergency response team comprises medical doctors with emergency expertise, with UNAMA covering 60 per cent and the agencies, funds and programmes covering 40 per cent of the cost (see also A/75/7/Add.6, para. 26). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the UNAMA Medical Section uses the organizational electronic platform EarthMed to securely store medical information of all United Nations personnel in the 24 entities present in Afghanistan. The cost of the EarthMed licence is \$120 per user per month, or \$1,440 per user per year, which is cost-shared among all United Nations entities participating in the joint medical services and medical emergency response team. Furthermore, of the 25 total users of EarthMed, it is estimated that UNAMA should budget for eight licences, with the rest of the licences cost-shared among participating entities. The Committee was informed that the total budget for the forward surgical team and the aeromedical evacuation team is currently estimated at \$3,128,333 in the first year of operation (with the UNAMA share amounting to \$970,200), and thereafter \$2,759,833 per year. The estimated costs would be higher in the first year of operation owing to mobilization and set-up costs. The Committee was informed that the costs are estimates at this time and subject to completion of the competitive bidding exercise, which is currently under way and not expected to be completed until October 2021. All costs would be cost-shared among the United Nations entities that agree that they will require the forward surgical team or aeromedical evacuation team and will participate in the cost-sharing. The Committee was also informed that an agreement in principle had been reached

among the 24 entities, although it may be subject to change when costs are known after the bidding exercise is complete; therefore, a cost breakdown per entity was not possible at this time. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide to the General Assembly an update thereon at the time of its consideration of the present report, as well as in the next budget submission.**

## **2. United Nations Office for Project Services**

32. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMA received services from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for its compound in Herat, where UNAMA is a tenant with other United Nations entities. The cost-sharing is calculated on the basis of the space occupied by each entity and includes costs related to electricity, waste management, unarmed guard services, generator maintenance, premises maintenance and ancillary services and an administration fee. The Committee was also informed that the following payments were made to UNOPS: (a) 2021: \$766,690; (b) 2020: \$794,361; and (c) 2019: \$798,496.

33. The Advisory Committee was further informed that from 2019 to 2021 UNAMA had received funding for outreach activities and local peace initiatives from the Salaam Support Group II project, which was launched on 1 January 2019 following a predecessor project (Salaam Support Group I) that was conducted from 2011 to 2018. The Salaam Support Group fund will cease by the end of 2021, and UNOPS will no longer administer fund releases to UNAMA once the project ceases by the end of 2022. The anticipated funding gap will negatively affect the ongoing support for initiatives focusing on the inclusion of civil society, young people, women and other marginalized groups in the peace process at the subnational level, as well as the provision of mediation support for local conflict resolution efforts. In the context of ongoing peace talks and requirements under the triple nexus approach, it is deemed necessary to continue the implementation of local peace initiatives and outreach activities. Therefore, the Mission proposed an additional \$90,000 in funding for a total of \$190,000 to sustain these initiatives and other outreach activities in support of mandate implementation.

34. **The Advisory Committee requests that information on the services provided by UNOPS to UNAMA and the related payments made by the Mission will be presented in all future budget proposals.**

## **III. Conclusion**

35. **Taking into account its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments, with assessment, in an amount not exceeding \$107,636,800 for the 10-month period from 1 January to 31 October 2022 for the maintenance of UNAMA.**

36. **Should the General Assembly agree with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNAMA, the Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a realistic revised budget to the Assembly at the appropriate time, taking into account any decision of the Security Council, as required and in accordance with established procedures.**