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

## Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

### Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2020/21	\$480,649,100
Expenditure for 2020/21	\$468,733,300
Unencumbered balance for 2020/21	\$11,915,800
Appropriation for 2021/22	\$476,842,000
Projected expenditure for 2021/22 <sup>a</sup>	\$476,842,000
Projected underexpenditure for 2021/22 <sup>a</sup>	\$0
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2022/23	\$507,223,400
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2022/23	(\$2,802,900)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2022/23	\$504,420,500

<sup>a</sup> Estimates as at 31 March 2022.



## I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), 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 1 April 2022. The observations and recommendations of the Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations are presented in its report (A/76/760), 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 2020 to 30 June 2021 can be found in its related report (A/76/735).

## II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

2. By its resolution 74/292, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$480,649,100 gross (\$466,840,400 net) for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Expenditure for the period totalled \$468,733,300 gross (\$454,569,000 net), for a budget implementation rate of 97.5 per cent. The unencumbered balance of \$11,915,800 represents 2.5 per cent of the total resources and reflects the combined effect of higher-than-budgeted expenditure under civilian personnel (\$3,934,400, or 4.1 per cent) and lower-than-budgeted expenditure under military and police personnel (\$13,710,900, or 4.0 per cent) and operational costs (\$2,139,300, or 4.9 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (A/76/562).

3. The Advisory Committee was informed that unliquidated obligations had increased from \$96,276,000 in 2019/20 to \$102,712,500 in 2021/22 and, as at 30 June 2021, amounted to: (a) \$94,905,100 for military and police personnel; (b) \$77,200 for civilian personnel; and (c) \$7,730,200 for operational costs. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, for military contingents for the two most recent budget cycles, 2019/20 and 2020/21, unliquidated obligations related to the schedule for troop and contingent-owned equipment payments, whereby troop-contributing countries were reimbursed retroactively and quarterly.

4. During 2020/21, a total of \$3,934,400 was redeployed to group II, civilian personnel, comprising \$3,615,200 from group I, military and police personnel, and \$319,200 from group III, operational costs. The redeployments to group II were attributable primarily to the increased requirements for international and national staff costs resulting from the higher actual average post adjustment multiplier, and the application of the revised salary scale for international and national staff, effective 1 January 2021 (*ibid.*, paras. 46–47).

## III. Information on performance for the current period

5. With regard to current and projected expenditure for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, as at 31 March 2022, expenditure amounted to \$425,999,000 (gross). At the end of the current period, the estimated total expenditure would amount to \$476,842,000 (gross), or a budget implementation rate of 100 per cent.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 4 March 2022, a total of \$10,936,069,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNIFIL since its

inception. Payments received amounted to \$10,727,207,000, leaving an outstanding balance of \$208,862,000. As at 4 March 2022, the cash available to the Force amounted to \$231,580,000, which was sufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of \$45,439,000 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries). The Committee was also informed that, as at 1 January 2022, the outstanding balance for contingent-owned equipment amounted to \$25,979,000. The Committee was furthermore informed that, as at 4 March 2022, an amount of \$23,516,000 had been paid to settle 226 death and disability claims since the inception of UNIFIL and that 37 claims were pending. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, as at 31 December 2021, 15 claims pertaining to post-traumatic stress disorder were pending. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously.**

#### **IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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

7. The mandate of UNIFIL was established by the Security Council in its resolutions [425 \(1978\)](#) and [426 \(1978\)](#) and extended most recently, until 31 August 2022, in resolution [2591 \(2021\)](#). The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of UNIFIL for the 2022/23 period are summarized in section I.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for the Force for that period ([A/76/700](#)).

##### **Regional cooperation and other partnerships**

8. Detailed information on regional mission cooperation and on partnerships and country team coordination is provided in sections I.C and I.D of the proposed budget. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNIFIL continued to share and exchange information and analysis about developments in Lebanon, Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, including participation in the regular conference of the regional force commanders with the Force Commanders of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. Furthermore, UNIFIL continued to conduct its regular joint coordination meetings with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon and collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

## B. Resource requirements

### Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment (2020/21)	Expenditure (2020/21)	Apportionment (2021/22)	Expenditure as at 31 March 2022	Cost estimates (2022/23)	Variance	
						Amount	Percentage
Military and police personnel	341 303.5	327 592.6	331 053.6	309 901.3	339 406.1	8 352.5	2.5
Civilian personnel	95 653.0	99 587.4	99 180.3	78 693.1	116 612.5	17 432.2	17.6
Operational costs	43 692.6	41 553.3	46 608.1	37 404.6	51 204.8	4 596.7	9.9
<b>Gross requirements</b>	<b>480 649.1</b>	<b>468 733.3</b>	<b>476 842.0</b>	<b>425 999.0</b>	<b>507 223.4</b>	<b>30 381.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>

*Note:* Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and IV of the proposed budget (A/76/700).

9. The proposed budget in the amount of \$507,223,400 (gross) represents an increase of \$30,381,400, or 6.4 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$476,842,000 for the 2021/22 period. Information on variances between the apportionment for 2021/22 and the proposed resources for 2022/23 is contained in section IV of the proposed budget (*ibid.*).

10. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increased requirements for civilian staffing costs of approximately \$17.4 million and for fuel of approximately \$7.4 million were considered non-discretionary increases due to external factors beyond the control of UNIFIL, as the economic situation affected international staff costs through a higher post adjustment multiplier resulting from the higher cost of living, as determined by the International Civil Service Commission. Furthermore, the cost of fuel had significantly increased after the lifting of subsidies by the host country Government and as a result of higher global fuel prices. The Committee was also informed that, should the proposed resources for 2022/23 under operational costs be reduced, the resulting lower resources would affect the Force's asset replacement plans for the equipment and vehicles that were beyond their economical useful lives and were therefore not operationally safe owing to their hygienic and safety conditions.

#### 1. Military and police personnel

Category	Authorized 2021/22 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized 2022/23	Variance	Proposed budget troop strength
Military contingent personnel	13 000	13 000	—	10 022

<sup>a</sup> Representing the highest level of authorized strength.

11. The proposed resources for military contingent personnel for 2022/23 amount to \$339,406,100, reflecting an increase of \$8,352,500, or 2.5 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. The increase is attributable primarily to higher costs for: (a) major contingent-owned equipment for the restructuring of four key mechanized battalions and alignment with the revised statements of unit requirements for these troop-contributing countries approved in September 2021, associated with the assessment of UNIFIL conducted in 2020; (b) contingent-owned equipment for self-sustainment; (c) mission subsistence allowance for military staff officers based on the revised rates effective 1 January 2022; and (d) standard troop cost reimbursement and travel on emplacement, repatriation and rotation, for additional military contingent personnel deployed and flights required for compliance with the

14-day quarantine period during rotation in connection with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (ibid., para. 86).

12. The table below provides a summary of the delayed deployment factors for military contingents for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 periods, as well as those proposed for the 2022/23 period.

### Delayed deployment factors

(Percentage)

Category	Actual 2020/21	Approved 2021/22	Actual as at 28 February 2022	Projected 2022/23
<b>Military and police personnel</b>				
Military contingents	33.7	22.9	24.0	22.9

13. The Advisory Committee notes that, in recent years, the actual deployment of military contingent personnel has remained well below the authorized ceiling and that, at the same time, financial resources were available to allow for the redeployment of financial resources from group I, military personnel, to group II, civilian personnel, and to group III, operational costs, as summarized in the table below.

### Authorized troop ceiling compared with actual deployment and redeployments to other groups (2018/19 to 2021/22)

	Authorized troop ceiling (number of personnel)	Budgeted troop strength (number of personnel)	Actual deployment (number of personnel)	Percentage of actual troop deployment compared with authorized ceiling	Appropriation for military contingents (US dollars)	Redeployment from group I, military personnel, to group II, civilian personnel, and/or group III, operational costs (US dollars)	Percentage of appropriation redeployed
2018/19 <sup>a</sup>	15 000	10 350	10 286	69	343 239 600	970 000	0.3
2019/20 <sup>b</sup>	15 000	10 155	10 074	67	344 856 600	178 000	0.1
2020/21 <sup>c</sup>	15 000	10 022	9 943	66	341 303 500	3 615 200	1.0
2021/22 <sup>d</sup>	13 000	10 022	9 855 <sup>e</sup>	76	331 053 600	—	—

<sup>a</sup> A/74/675, summary table and sect. III.B.

<sup>b</sup> A/75/612, summary table and sect. III.B.

<sup>c</sup> A/76/562, summary table and paras. 45–47.

<sup>d</sup> Information received by the Committee.

<sup>e</sup> As at 28 February 2022.

14. The Advisory Committee trusts that information covering the past 10 budget periods on the actual and average deployment of military contingent personnel compared with the authorized troop ceiling, as well as the amounts that were redeployed from group I, military and police personnel, to group II, civilian personnel, and/or group III, operational costs, along with the actual expenditure incurred compared with the appropriation, will be provided in the context of the next budget submission.

### Maritime Task Force

15. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, UNIFIL will further its cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces and international stakeholders as part of the strategic dialogue initiative, aimed at enhancing the capabilities and capacities of the Lebanese Armed Forces. UNIFIL will also continue its support towards implementing the two remaining projects recommended by the strategic review of

UNIFIL (S/2017/202), and pledges by the international community at the Rome II conference (2018), which comprise the deployment of a model regiment on the Blue Line (see also para. 29 below) and the acquisition of a Lebanese Navy patrol vessel to enable a gradual transfer of Maritime Task Force responsibilities to the Lebanese Navy (A/76/700, para. 13). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Maritime Task Force had been operating with a reduced fleet of five ships since 2 December 2020, after the withdrawal of one maritime contributing country. The Committee was also informed that the Secretariat was actively engaged with Member States to seek a replacement and that the acquisition of a Lebanese Navy patrol vessel would depend on donor support in view of the dire economic situation in Lebanon. In addition, UNIFIL had advocated with partner countries to increase support to the Lebanese Navy and, as a result, partner countries had increased military assistance to maritime security, with one Member State having committed to donating three refurbished patrol boats by the end of 2022. **The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving updated information in future budget reports on the status of the Maritime Task Force, including regarding national capacity-building and the impact, if any, on the resource requirements of UNIFIL.**

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

## 2. Civilian personnel

Category	Approved 2021/22	Proposed 2022/23	Variance
Posts			
International staff	254	254	–
National General Service staff	544	544	–
National Professional Officers	46	46	–
Temporary positions	–	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>1</b>

17. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2022/23 amount to \$116,612,500, reflecting an increase of \$17,432,200, or 17.6 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. The increase is attributable to higher salary rates for international and national staff, lower vacancy rates of 2.0 per cent for international staff (compared with 5.1 per cent in 2021/22), 2.2 per cent for National Professional Officers (4.3 per cent in 2021/22), and 1.5 per cent for national General Service staff (2.0 per cent in 2021/22). Under general temporary assistance, the reduced requirements are attributable primarily to the transfer of the Force's share of allocated costs for the general temporary assistance related to activities for the Umoja implementation support project to the support account for peacekeeping operations, offset in part by higher requirements for the proposed establishment of one temporary position with a vacancy rate of 50.0 per cent, in connection with the transfer of programme management functions for mine detection and mine clearing services formerly provided by the Mine Action Service through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), which was included under other supplies, services and equipment in the approved budget for 2021/22 (ibid., paras. 87–89).

18. A total of 845 civilian posts and positions, compared with 844 approved posts and positions, are proposed for 2022/23, comprising 254 international posts, 544 national General Service posts, 46 National Professional Officers and 1 newly proposed general temporary assistance position. The increase from 844 to 845 posts and positions is the net effect of the proposed: (a) abolishment of one Associate Radio

Producer (P-2) post; and (b) establishment of one Senior Coordination Officer (P-5) post in the Office of the Principal Coordinator and one Programme Management Officer (P-4) position in the Office of the Deputy Force Commander (*ibid.*, paras. 25, 42, 50 and 66). Details with respect to the staffing proposals are provided in section I.E of the report of the Secretary-General.

### **Recommendations on posts and positions**

#### *Establishment*

19. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of one Senior Coordination Officer (P-5) post in the Office of the Principal Coordinator to deputize on behalf of the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) and directly oversee the management of the Mission Planning Unit. The approved staffing establishment of the Office of the Principal Coordinator comprises 16 posts (1 Principal Coordination Officer (D-1), 1 Senior Information Analyst, Political Affairs (P-5), 2 Information Analysts, Political Affairs (P-4), 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4), 1 Policy and Best Practices Officer (P-4), 3 Information Analysts, Political Affairs (P-3), 2 Administrative Officers (1 P-3 and 1 Field Service), 1 Administrative Assistant (Field Service), 1 Board of Inquiry Assistant (national General Service), 3 Research Assistants (national General Service)) (*ibid.*, paras. 25, 45 and 50). Together with the aforementioned proposed post of Senior Coordination Officer, the Office would then comprise 17 staff in 2022/23.

20. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Senior Coordination Officer would ensure coherence of the Force and synergy between its different components, including strategic planning, the oversight and management of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, as well as of data management, risk management, business continuity, organizational resilience and crisis management.

21. **The Advisory Committee recalls its observations and recommendation in the context of its report on the proposed budget for 2021/22 and reiterates that it is not convinced that a separate mission planning function is operationally required in the Office of the Principal Coordinator. The Committee also recalls that, at the time, it recommended against the addition of this particular post to the Office of the Principal Coordinator, recommending against the redeployment of one post of Senior Civil Affairs Officer (P-5) from the Civil Affairs Section in the Division of Political and Civil Affairs to the Office of the Principal Coordinator and its reassignment as Senior Mission Planning Officer (P-5) (see [A/75/822/Add.14](#), paras. 19–20). Furthermore, as the approved staffing complement of the Office of the Principal Coordinator already includes nine posts with substantive responsibilities at the P-3 level and above, the Committee is of the view that any tasks pertaining to the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System, as well as related duties, can be undertaken by existing capacity. The Committee is also of the view that functions requiring the deputization on behalf of the Principal Coordination Officer (D-1) can be undertaken, if not already, by the existing Senior Information Analyst, Political Affairs (P-5) post. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of one Senior Coordination Officer (P-5) post in the Office of the Principal Coordinator. The Committee provides its observations and recommendations on the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/76/760](#)).**

22. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of one temporary Programme Management Officer (P-4) position for mine action to lead the UNIFIL mine action programme and the quality assurance efforts of the military demining contingents ([A/76/700](#), paras. 25 and 42). The Advisory Committee notes that an amount of



\$500,500 for the services of the mine action programme in UNIFIL has been included for 2022/23 under other supplies, services and equipment to provide for the costs of engaging five national contractual personnel under an agreement between the Mine Action Service and UNOPS to support and enable the mine action programme of UNIFIL within the area of operations. In addition, UNOPS would provide training support, validation, quality assurance monitoring, technical advice and safety briefings, as required (*ibid.*, para. 79).

23. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Programme Management Officer (P-4) would, *inter alia*, act as the Chief of the UNIFIL mine action programme, support the military demining contingent, including quality assurance, advise on possible efficiency gains in the outputs of the demining contingents, liaise with the Lebanese Mine Action Centre and support risk education for UNIFIL, communities and humanitarian actors. The Committee was also informed that those tasks were currently undertaken by UNOPS at an annual cost of \$338,800. The proposed temporary Programme Management Officer (P-4) would replace this arrangement at an annual cost of \$150,300. **The Advisory Committee considers that five specialist personnel, contracted under the agreement with UNOPS, will provide the range of services related to demining, including some of those to be performed by the proposed temporary post. The Committee acknowledges the need for a civilian staff acting as Chief of the mine action programme but is of the view that, as UNIFIL is a well-established mission where demining functions have historically been conducted by the military component, the related responsibilities may be undertaken at the P-3 level. Therefore, while the Committee recommends against the establishment of one temporary Programme Management Officer (P-4) position, it recommends the establishment of one temporary Programme Management Officer (P-3) position.** The Committee considers matters pertaining to demining activities, including the management fees paid to UNOPS, in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/76/760](#)).

#### *Vacancy rates*

24. The table below provides a summary of the vacancy rates for civilian personnel for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 periods, as well as those proposed for the 2022/23 period. The Advisory Committee notes the lack of justification for the application of rates that differ from the actual vacancy rates during the current period, as at 28 February 2022, as follows: (a) international staff: a vacancy rate of 2.0 per cent is proposed, when the actual average is 5.1 per cent and the actual is 3.9 per cent; (b) national General Service staff: a vacancy rate of 1.5 per cent is proposed, when the actual average is 5.3 per cent and the actual is 5.5 per cent; and (c) National Professional Officers: a vacancy rate of 2.2 per cent is proposed, when the actual average is 8.7 per cent and the actual is 4.3 per cent.

#### **Vacancy rates**

(Percentage)

Category	Approved 2020/21	Actual average 2020/21	Approved 2021/22	Actual as at 31 January 2022	Actual as at 28 February 2022	Actual average as at 28 February 2022	Proposed 2022/23
<b>Civilian personnel</b>							
International staff	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.9	3.9	5.1	2.0
National General Service staff	7.2	9.7	2.0	6.1	5.5	5.3	1.5
National Professional Officers	10.4	10.4	4.3	6.5	4.3	8.7	2.2
<b>Temporary positions</b>							
International staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.0



25. 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.

#### *Vacant posts*

26. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that 42 posts (10 international, 2 National Professional Officer, 30 national General Service) were vacant and that, of those, 37 posts were in various stages of recruitment, while 5 posts (3 international, 2 national General Service) were onboarding. A total of three posts had been vacant for two years or longer; of those, two posts (national General Service) were under recruitment and one post (national General Service) was onboarding. **The Advisory Committee trusts that an update on the recruitment status of vacant posts will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts are filled expeditiously.**

27. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 21 and 23 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)

Category	Apportionment 2020/21	Expenditure 2020/21	Apportionment 2021/22	Expenditure as at 31 March 2022	Cost estimates 2022/23	Variance	
						Amount	Percentage
		(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)=(3)-(2)	(5)=(4)÷(2)
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consultants and consulting services	59.5	42.3	109.4	68.0	106.8	(2.6)	(2.4)
Official travel	712.0	153.1	536.3	291.1	733.5	197.2	36.8
Facilities and infrastructure	17 669.7	16 902.7	15 351.1	14 686.5	23 331.9	7 980.8	52.0
Ground transportation	5 645.4	5 512.4	5 165.8	6 325.2	6 768.5	1 602.7	31.0
Air operations	7 003.5	6 360.9	6 834.4	4 387.6	7 007.4	173.0	2.5
Marine operations	113.6	299.7	133.8	198.5	215.4	81.6	61.0
Communications and information technology	7 739.5	7 553.9	12 489.7	7 181.5	7 986.0	(4 503.7)	(36.1)
Medical	1 088.5	1 749.9	1 858.4	1 641.7	1 532.9	(325.5)	(17.5)
Special equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other supplies, services and equipment	3 160.9	2 478.4	3 629.2	2 293.2	3 022.4	(606.8)	(16.7)
Quick-impact projects	500.0	500.0	500.0	329.3	500.0	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>43 692.6</b>	<b>41 553.3</b>	<b>46 608.1</b>	<b>37 404.6</b>	<b>51 204.8</b>	<b>4 596.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>

28. The proposed increase reflects: (a) increases under official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, air operations and marine operations; (b) decreases under consultants and consulting services, communications and information technology, medical, and other supplies, services and equipment; and (c) no changes under quick-impact projects (A/76/700, sects. II and IV).

29. **The Advisory Committee is not fully convinced that the justifications provided support some of the requirements listed below and makes the following observations and recommendations:**

(a) *Consultants and consulting services.* The proposed resources of \$106,800 reflect a decrease of \$2,600 (2.4 per cent). As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$68,000 against an apportionment of \$109,400. The apportionment for 2020/21 was \$59,500, with a total expenditure of \$42,300. **Taking into consideration the underexpenditure during 2020/21 and 2021/22, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 20 per cent (\$21,400) to the proposed resources under consultants and consulting services;**

(b) *Official travel.* The proposed resources of \$733,500 reflect an increase of \$197,200 (36.8 per cent). As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$293,100 against an apportionment of \$536,300. The apportionment for 2020/21 was \$712,000, with a total expenditure of \$153,100. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increased requirements were attributable primarily to the higher number of trips due to the normalization, given the easing of worldwide travel restrictions in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, of training activities and in-person training, which had been postponed from prior periods. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic should be further applied and 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 recommends a reduction of 20 per cent (\$39,400) to the increase of the proposed resources under official travel;**

(c) *Facilities and infrastructure.* The proposed resources of \$23,331,900 reflect an increase of \$7,980,800 (52 per cent). As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$14,686,500 against an apportionment of \$15,351,100. The apportionment for 2020/21 was \$17,669,700, with a total expenditure of \$16,902,700. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to: (i) the higher anticipated average cost of fuel for generators; (ii) the acquisition of a higher number of engineering supplies, prefabricated facilities, accommodation and refrigeration equipment, and construction material and field defence supplies for rehabilitation and major repairs and maintenance; and (iii) the engagement of services for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance for the proposed hard-wall facility for military and civilian personnel in the old camp in Naqoura to eventually replace a total of 17 twenty-year-old modular prefabricated facilities, which would reduce the environmental impact and improve the living and working conditions and the occupational hygiene and safety of personnel, for which a provision was not included in the approved budget for the 2021/22 period (A/76/700, para. 91). The Advisory Committee recalls that the proposed resources for 2021/22 included increased requirements for the acquisition of equipment for the Blue Line monitoring project but was informed, upon enquiry, that no equipment or material had been acquired, as the project had been suspended owing to external factors. **The Advisory Committee trusts that detailed information on the current status of the Blue Line monitoring project will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report. The Committee recommends a reduction of 25 per cent (\$1,995,200) to the increase of the proposed resources under facilities and infrastructure;**

(d) *Marine operations.* The proposed resources of \$215,400 reflect an increase of \$81,600 (61 per cent). As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$198,500 against an apportionment of \$133,800. The apportionment for 2020/21 was \$113,600, with a total expenditure of \$299,700. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to the anticipated acquisition of a higher number of sea containers due to the acquisition of a higher number of equipment to be transported to the area of

operations compared with the number of sea containers included in the approved budget for the 2021/22 period (*ibid.*, para. 94). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 17 March 2022, a total of 82 sea freight containers were located in the UNIFIL area of operations and that all containers were being used for the temporary storage of equipment and materials at the warehouse, as well as for construction and maintenance works in positions. The Committee was also informed that UNIFIL regularly assessed its sea freight containers and that those not suitable for use were written off or declared as surplus equipment;

(e) *Communication and information technology.* The proposed resources of \$7,986,000 reflect a decrease of \$4,503,700 (36.1 per cent). As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$7,181,500 against an apportionment of \$12,489,700. The apportionment for 2020/21 was \$7,739,500, with a total expenditure of \$7,553,900. The reduced requirements are attributable primarily to the non-requirement for the acquisition of equipment and the maintenance of services for the first phase of the Blue Line camera project (*ibid.*, para. 95). The proposed resources for 2021/22 included increased requirements for the acquisition of equipment for the Blue Line monitoring project which has not been acquired, as the project is currently suspended, as also noted above. **The Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 5 per cent (\$399,300) to the proposed resources under communication and information technology;**

(f) *Other supplies, services and equipment.* The proposed resources of \$3,022,400 reflect a decrease of \$606,800 (16.7 per cent). As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$2,293,200 against an apportionment of \$3,629,200. The apportionment for 2020/21 was \$3,160,900, with a total expenditure of \$2,478,400. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, for both 2020/21 and 2021/22, the reduced requirements were due primarily to the provision for the UNIFIL share of the local cost-shared security budget for Lebanon for security information services provided by the Department of Safety and Security, administered by the United Nations Development Programme. **The Advisory Committee trusts that information will be provided to the General Assembly, at the time of its consideration of the present report, on the underlying reasons, as well as any financial and operational implications pertaining to the administration by the United Nations Development Programme of security services of the staff of the Secretariat's Department of Safety and Security. The Committee recommends a reduction of 5 per cent (\$151,100) to the proposed resources under other supplies, services and equipment.**

30. Information on quick-impact projects is provided in paragraphs 81 to 83 of the proposed budget, with the proposed resources of \$500,000 and the number of projects (25) having remained unchanged from 2021/22. As at 31 March 2022, total expenditure for 2021/22 amounted to \$329,300 against an apportionment of \$500,000. The apportionment for 2020/21 was also \$500,000, with a total expenditure also of \$500,000. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 17 March 2022, for 2021/22, 24 quick-impact projects were in various stages of completion, while for 2020/21, 39 projects had been undertaken and closed and 1 had been cancelled. **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNIFIL will continue to ensure that its quick-impact projects will benefit the local population, as intended, and without any duplication of facilities and services provided. The Committee trusts that updated information on the projects, including locations, planning, implementation and assessment, will be presented in the context of the next proposed budget.**

31. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 27 and 29 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.

## V. Other matters

### Asset replacement plan

32. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 23 March 2021, the five-year phased asset replacement plan for communications and information technology equipment was divided into: (a) communications equipment; and (b) information technology equipment. Furthermore, in 2022/23, 48 vehicles would be replaced, and in 2023/24, 106 vehicles would be replaced. The Committee was also informed that it was not feasible to use electric or hybrid vehicles in the area of operations, as the vehicles would not be operationally reliable owing to the increasingly fragile national power grid, whereby the recharging of a full electric vehicle or of a plug-in hybrid vehicle would not be possible outside of UNIFIL locations. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the detailed asset replacement plan, with the related justifications, will be provided in the next budget submission.**

### Environmental activities

33. Information on UNIFIL environmental activities is provided in paragraph 23, as well as under the relevant budget lines, of the proposed budget. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNIFIL introduced the use of solar energy in 2012 and that initial assessments on the use of wind energy had been conducted, indicating that wind speeds were too low for large-scale wind turbine projects in the area of operations. The Committee was also informed that UNIFIL energy production was as follows: (a) 1 per cent of the Force's energy production was provided from renewable energy sources and would be increased to 9 per cent by 2024; (b) 47 per cent was provided by United Nations-owned equipment; and (c) 52 per cent was provided from contingent-owned equipment. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Force will take further measures to enhance its renewable energy production and provide detailed information on the projects in future budget proposals, including implementation schedules, the impact on fuel consumption and related efficiency gains.**

### Lessons learned and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

34. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the past and current response of UNIFIL and the current status were as follows: (a) the civilian footprint in the United Nations positions was still reduced through flexible working arrangements; (b) UNIFIL activated the crisis framework in March 2020, and the crisis management team continued to meet weekly; (c) troop rotations resumed in June 2020, with the troop-contributing countries' quarantine requirement prior to deployment and the UNIFIL quarantine requirement lasting 14 days before departure and after arrival, respectively; (d) training requiring in-person activities with the Lebanese Armed Forces remained suspended and some training was conducted virtually; (e) civilian-military cooperation activities had gradually resumed; and (f) UNIFIL continued to work with the country team, the Ministry of Public Health of Lebanon, Headquarters in New York and troop-contributing countries to achieve a 100 per cent COVID-19 vaccination rate of personnel who chose to receive a vaccination.

### Gender representation and geographical representation

35. Information provided to the Advisory Committee, upon enquiry, indicates that, as at 28 February 2022, 796 staff were on board, comprising 549 male staff (69 per cent) and 247 female staff (31 per cent). Within the various categories and levels, the gender representation was as follows: no female staff (0 per cent) at the Assistant Secretary-General level; 1 female staff (33 per cent) at the D-2 level; 2 female staff

(40 per cent) at the D-1 level; 6 female staff (37 per cent) at the P-5 level; 16 female staff (47 per cent) at the P-4 level; 15 female staff (50 per cent) at the P-3 level; 2 female staff (33 per cent) at the P-2 level; 52 female staff (35 per cent) in the Field Service category; 20 female staff (49 per cent) in the National Professional Officer category; and 133 female staff (26 per cent) in the national General Service category. The Committee was also informed that the UNIFIL civilian gender task force comprised gender focal points in each civilian section, unit or office, for a total currently of 23 civilian gender focal points, and that the three military gender task forces were present in Sector East, Sector West and headquarters in Naqoura, with gender focal points designated within each battalion and one gender focal point for each 100 military personnel on average. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that UNIFIL staff at all levels originated from 78 countries. **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNIFIL will continue to pursue its efforts to enhance both female representation and geographical representation of staff and will provide information thereon in future budget reports.** The Committee provides its observations and recommendations on gender and geographical representation in annual reports, most recently in its report entitled “Composition of the Secretariat: staff demographics” (A/76/733), and also discusses both matters further in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/76/760).

## VI. Conclusion

36. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with regard to the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 are indicated in section V of the performance report (A/76/562). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of \$11,915,800 for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, as well as other revenue/adjustments amounting to \$3,910,700 for the period ended 30 June 2021, be credited to Member States.**

37. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with regard to the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 are indicated in section V of the proposed budget (A/76/700). **Taking into account its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$2,802,900, from \$507,223,400 to \$504,420,500. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$504,420,500 for the maintenance of the Force for the 12-month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.**