



# General Assembly

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### Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

## 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 of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

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

Appropriation for 2020/21	\$51,750,100
Expenditure for 2020/21	\$51,726,300
Unencumbered balance for 2020/21	\$23,800
Appropriation for 2021/22	\$53,798,000
Projected expenditure for 2021/22 <sup>a</sup>	\$53,623,400
Projected underexpenditure for 2021/22 <sup>a</sup>	\$174,600
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2022/23	\$54,507,700
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2022/23	(\$489,100)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2022/23	\$54,018,600

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



## I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (A/76/549 and A/76/696), 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 21 March 2022. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations are contained in its report (A/76/760), and those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on 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 74/285, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$51,750,100 gross (\$49,137,400 net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Expenditure for the period totalled \$51,726,300 gross (\$48,994,200 net), for a budget implementation rate of 100.0 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of \$23,800, in gross terms, represents 0.0 per cent of the overall level of resources approved for the financial period.

3. The unencumbered balance of \$23,800 of the overall level of resources approved for 2020/21 reflects lower-than-budgeted expenditure under operational costs (\$1,565,900, or 10.9 per cent), offset in part by higher requirements under military and police personnel (\$627,900, or 2.9 per cent) and civilian personnel (\$914,200, or 5.9 per cent). Summary information on the redeployment (\$1,547,000, or 3.0 per cent) from group III to groups I and II is provided in section III.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force in 2020/21 (A/76/549). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of that report.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed that unliquidated obligations amounted to \$4,894,000 as at 30 June 2021, compared with \$5,219,700 as at 30 June 2020. **The Advisory Committee notes that the level of unliquidated obligations decreased by \$325,700, or 6.2 per cent, for 2020/21, compared with the 2019/20 financial period.**

## III. Information on performance for the current period

5. With respect to current and projected expenditure for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 March 2022, the estimated total expenditure amounted to \$44,237,200. At the end of the current period, the total expenditure was estimated at \$53,623,400, with a projected unencumbered balance of \$174,600, or 0.3 per cent.

6. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as at 14 February 2022, a total of \$749,215,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNFICYP since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to \$724,829,900, resulting in an outstanding balance of \$24,385,100. As at the same date, the cash available to the Force amounted to \$9,480,700, which was not sufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of \$10,034,400. In addition, contingent-owned equipment had been certified and paid up to September 2021, leaving an outstanding balance of \$214,100 as at 31 December 2021. **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 (A/75/822/Add.2, para. 7).**

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 2 March 2022, there were 10 pending death and disability claims: 9 related to post-traumatic stress disorder and 1 involved a work-related accident. Of the nine claims concerning post-traumatic stress disorder, eight had been assessed by the medical expert and were presently under review by the United Nations Secretariat for further processing. As at the same date, the Force had disbursed \$1,737,600 for death and disability compensation since its inception, in connection with 289 claims, which is unchanged from the previous period. The Committee notes that, of the 10 pending cases, a claim in respect of 1 case has been pending since October 2008, while the remaining claims are more recent, pending since January 2017 or later.

8. **The Advisory Committee expresses concern that claims remain outstanding, including one claim that has been outstanding since 2008, even after they have been assessed by the medical expert, and reiterates that death and disability claims should be settled expeditiously. The Committee trusts that further justification of the reasons for pending claims will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.** The Committee discusses further the matter of compensation of claims related to post-traumatic stress disorder in its report on the post-traumatic stress disorder framework for uniformed personnel (A/76/782).

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

### A. Mandate and planning assumptions

9. The mandate of UNFICYP was established by the Security Council in its resolution 186 (1964) and extended most recently, until 31 July 2022, in its resolution 2618 (2022). The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives for 2022/23 are summarized in section I.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for UNFICYP for the period (A/76/696).

### B. Resource requirements

10. The total resource requirements in the amount of \$54,507,700 requested for the 2022/23 period represent an increase of \$709,700, or 1.3 per cent, compared with the provision of \$53,798,000 approved for the 2021/22 period.

### 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	21 870.5	22 498.4	22 432.9	20 473.3	23 948.7	1 515.8	6.8
Civilian personnel	15 537.4	16 451.6	16 654.2	12 379.8	16 368.4	(285.8)	(1.7)
Operational costs	14 342.2	12 776.3	14 710.9	11 384.2	14 190.6	(520.3)	(3.5)
<b>Gross requirements</b>	<b>51 750.1</b>	<b>51 726.3</b>	<b>53 798.0</b>	<b>44 237.2</b>	<b>54 507.7</b>	<b>709.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>

Note: Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget (A/76/696).

11. The increase is attributable primarily to higher requirements under military contingents (\$655,100) and United Nations police (\$860,700) (see para. 12 below), offset in part by lower requirements under national staff (\$409,100) (see para. 16 below) and ground transportation (\$618,400) (see para. 30 below).

12. The Advisory Committee notes that, under the provisions of the status-of-forces agreement, estimated non-budgeted voluntary contributions in kind by the Government of Cyprus for the 2022/23 period amount to \$968,900<sup>1</sup> (A/76/696, para. 66). **The Advisory Committee notes with appreciation the continued voluntary contributions to UNFICYP.**

## 1. Military and police personnel

<i>Category</i>	<i>Authorized 2021/22<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Proposed 2022/23</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Military contingent personnel	860	860	–
United Nations police	69	69	–

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

13. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2022/23 reflect an increase of \$1,515,800, or 6.8 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2021/22. The proposed increase is attributable mainly to the higher cost of mission subsistence allowance under military contingents (\$696,900) and United Nations police (\$867,300) compared with the 2021/22 period (ibid., paras. 78 and 80). The Advisory Committee discusses further the increase in rates for mission subsistence allowance in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/76/760).

**14. 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 2021/22</i>	<i>Proposed 2022/23</i>	<i>Variance</i>
<b>Posts</b>			
International staff	38	41	3
National Professional Officers	7	7	–
National General Service	115	115	–
<b>Temporary positions<sup>a</sup></b>			
International staff	1	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>a</sup> Funded under general temporary assistance.

15. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2022/23 reflect a decrease of \$285,800, or 1.7 per cent, for 2022/23 attributable mainly to decreased requirements under national staff, owing to the depreciation of the euro against the United States

<sup>1</sup> The estimated amount of \$968,900 comprises the market value of the costs of United Nations observation posts as well as office and accommodation facilities provided by the Government of Cyprus to UNFICYP at no cost for military contingents and United Nations police units, including the UNFICYP headquarters complex (A/76/696, para. 66).

dollar, offset in part by increased requirements under general temporary assistance, reflecting the proposed establishment of one new position (*ibid.*, paras. 81–83).

*Recommendations on posts and positions*

16. The Secretary-General proposes a total of 165 civilian posts and positions for 2022/23 reflecting: (a) the establishment of 3 new Professional posts (1 Mission Planning Officer (P-4), 1 Environmental Affairs Officer (P-3) and 1 Human Resources Officer (P-3); see paras. 18–20 below); (b) the establishment of 1 new general temporary assistance position and the continuation of 1 existing general temporary assistance position (1 Programme Management Officer (P-4) and 1 Air Operations Officer (Field Service), respectively; see para. 21 below; and [A/76/696](#), para. 65); (c) the upward reclassification of 2 posts within the national General Service category to senior-level assistants ([A/76/696](#), paras. 44, 45, 60 and 61); and (d) the reassignment of 2 national General Service posts within the mission support component (*ibid.*, paras. 59 and 63).

17. The Advisory Committee notes that, with respect to the proposed establishment of the post of Mission Planning Officer (P-4) (*ibid.*, paras. 35–39), the Secretary-General has provided largely the same justifications used to support the proposal in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 periods (see [A/74/693](#), para. 31; and [A/75/746](#), paras. 33–36). The Committee recalls that neither proposal was approved by the General Assembly (see resolutions [74/285](#) and [75/299](#)). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the post of Mission Planning Officer would provide, *inter alia*, a dedicated capacity to focus on the implementation of results-based management within the Force and would operationalize the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the current double-hatting arrangement of the Chief of the Joint Mission Analysis Centre at UNFICYP as the focal point for the operationalization of the Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System would not be sustainable in the long term. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its observations that UNFICYP planning requirements have not expanded to such a degree as to warrant a new post (see [A/75/822/Add.2](#), para. 16; and [A/74/737/Add.4](#), para. 12). Furthermore, the Committee recalls that the General Assembly has requested (see resolution [75/299](#), para. 27) an execution plan for, and analysis of, the implementation of the new Comprehensive Planning and Performance Assessment System in order to facilitate consideration of resource requests for the implementation of the System. Pending further guidance from the Assembly with respect to the mission’s strategic planning capacities, the Committee is of the view that the integrated nature of the work carried out by the Joint Mission Analysis Centre provides an adequate arrangement for the operationalization of the System in smaller missions, such as UNFICYP, and recommends against the establishment of the post of Mission Planning Officer (P-4).**

18. With regard to the proposed establishment of a post of Environmental Affairs Officer (P-3) (see [A/76/696](#), paras. 51–55), the Advisory Committee notes the proposed establishment of one post of Associate Environmental Officer (National Professional Officer) in the 2020/21 period, as well as the proposed establishment of a post of Environmental Officer (P-3) in the 2021/22 period (see [A/74/693](#), paras. 38–40; and [A/75/746](#), paras. 42–45). The Committee recalls that neither proposal was approved by the General Assembly (see resolutions [74/285](#) and [75/299](#)). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, in response to its previous recommendation (see [A/75/822/Add.2](#), para. 17), the Force had reviewed its staffing capacity and found that addressing the requirement for a dedicated environmental management resource was not possible through an internal redeployment or reassignment of posts without hampering the implementation of the mandate or

weakening support provided to UNFICYP military and police personnel. Furthermore, and in addition to the concerns about the perceived conflict of interest by covering the requirement with staff of the Engineering and Facilities Management Section, the Committee was informed that UNFICYP did not have the requisite knowledge, experience and skills required to carry out the functions effectively within its existing staffing complement. Upon enquiry, The Committee was also informed that, failing the establishment of a dedicated post of Environmental Affairs Officer, the Force would risk non-compliance with the Administration's environment policy and strategy and would remain the only peacekeeping operation without a dedicated environmental management resource. The Committee notes the score on the environmental management scorecard of 89 for 2020/21, which is higher than the scores of 86 and 88 for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 periods, respectively. **The Advisory Committee remains of the view that the proposed functions can continue to be undertaken within existing staffing resources (see [A/75/822/Add.2](#), para. 17; and [A/74/737/Add.4](#), para. 13) and that the work of the Engineering and Facilities Management Section in the implementation of environmental initiatives can be supported through cooperation with the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the proposed post of Environmental Affairs Officer (P-3).**

19. With regard to the proposed establishment of the post of Human Resources Officer (P-3) (see [A/76/696](#), paras. 57–59), the Advisory Committee notes that the function was established as a position funded through general temporary assistance resources in the 2019/20 period and was discontinued, in line with the Committee's recommendation, by the General Assembly in the 2021/22 period (see [A/73/755/Add.5](#), para. 23; [A/75/822/Add.2](#), para. 18; and resolution [75/299](#)). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, from its establishment, the position had been tasked with improving core service delivery in the operational elements of human resources, in particular in the administration of entitlements, recruitment and onboarding. Following the discontinuation of the position, a temporary replacement position of Human Resources Officer (P-3) had been created on an ad hoc basis to continue to sustain past improvements and provide timely human resources services to support UNFICYP, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus and the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that UNFICYP is a stand-alone mission responsible for end-to-end processing of all human resources-related matters and that the absence of the position would have a deleterious impact on the operations of the UNFICYP Human Resources Section, which currently comprises an approved staffing complement of one international staff member (Chief of Unit (P-4)) and six national staff members, in addition to the temporary position at the P-3 level created in 2021/22. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the relatively stable human resources-related requirements of the mission should be provided from within existing resources. Moreover, the Committee is not convinced that operating as a stand-alone mission responsible for end-to-end processing of all human resources-related matters is the most cost-beneficial approach, and considers that the Force should explore making use of services provided by the Kuwait Joint Support Office, as well as consider opportunities for cooperation with regional peacekeeping missions with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of human resources-related services. The Committee therefore recommends against the establishment of the post of Human Resources Officer (P-3).**

20. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of the temporary position of Programme Management Officer (P-4) (see [A/76/696](#), paras. 40–42) as the head of the mine action component within the Force. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a cost comparison of both arrangements, which indicates that shifting resources for mine action management from the United Nations

Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to UNFICYP would yield, in the 2022/23 period, reduced requirements of approximately \$136,500, inclusive of the application of a 50 per cent vacancy rate, and, in subsequent periods, savings accruing from the non-application of UNOPS fees of 8 per cent. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that, although \$38,100 had been budgeted for the provision of travel, operational expenses and equipment under mine detection and mine clearing services, the contractual arrangement with UNOPS would not be operational in the 2022/23 period. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further clarification on the provision of operational support for UNFICYP mine action activities will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report, in particular with regard to embedding such support within the Force in lieu of relying on the contractual arrangement with UNOPS.**

21. With regard to mine action activities implemented by the Force, the Committee recalls that in 2017 the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders requested UNFICYP to stop demining operations, but some services have continued in line with the strategic review, including mapping, technical advice, education, the training of UNFICYP staff and threat assessment. In 2019, UNFICYP proposed mine action as a confidence-building measure between communities. At present, 20 minefields and nine suspected hazardous areas still need to be cleared. **The Advisory Committee notes that the mine action work of the Force has been focusing on facilitating support for confidence-building measures, supporting advocacy efforts related to mine clearance and providing awareness training on mines and explosive remnants of war, and is of the view that the proposed activities can be undertaken at the P-3 level instead of the requested P-4 level. The Committee therefore recommends the establishment of one temporary position of Programme Management Officer (P-3).** The Committee will consider further the transfer of programme management functions for mine detection and mine clearance services formerly provided through UNOPS in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping (A/76/760).

#### *Vacancy rates and vacant posts*

22. The table below provides a summary of the vacancy rates for civilian personnel experienced during the 2020/21 and 2021/22 periods, as well as those proposed for 2022/23.

### **Vacancy rates**

(Percentage)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Budgeted 2020/21</i>	<i>Actual 2020/21</i>	<i>Budgeted 2021/22</i>	<i>Actual 31 January 2022</i>	<i>Actual 28 Februar y 2022</i>	<i>Actual 31 March 2022</i>	<i>Actual average 31 March 2022</i>	<i>Proposed 2022/23</i>
<b>Civilian personnel</b>								
International staff	3.0	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.6	5.3	2.6	2.0
National staff								
National Professional Officers	2.0	14.3	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
National General Service staff	2.0	1.7	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Temporary positions (international staff)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

23. **The Advisory Committee again reiterates its view that proposed vacancy rates should be based, as much as possible, on actual rates. In cases where the proposed rates differ from the actual rates, clear justification should be provided**

systematically in the proposed budget and related documents (see [A/75/822/Add.1](#), para. 20; [A/74/737/Add.4](#), para. 17; and [A/73/755/Add.5](#), para. 21).

24. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 January 2022, one post was vacant (1 Senior Information Analyst/Chief of the Joint Mission Analysis Centre (P-5)) and no posts had been vacant for more than two years. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the vacant post will be filled expeditiously.**

25. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 17–21 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General’s proposals for civilian staff. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

### 3. Operational costs

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment	Expenditure	Apportionment	Expenditure as	Cost	Variance	
	(2020/21)	(2020/21)	(2021/22)	at 31 March 2022	estimates (2022/23)	Amount	Percentage
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)	(7)=(6)÷(3)
<b>Operational costs</b>							
Civilian electoral observers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Consultants and consulting services	33.1	27.9	33.3	2.8	37.7	4.4	13.2
Official travel	251.0	23.5	209.4	143.6	254.3	44.9	21.4
Facilities and infrastructure	7 102.3	6 075.4	6 937.7	4 750.6	6 858.1	(79.6)	(1.1)
Ground transportation	1 962.6	1 990.4	2 314.9	2 055.8	1 696.5	(618.4)	(26.7)
Air operations	2 210.4	1 973.8	2 346.1	2 293.1	2 335.5	(10.6)	(0.5)
Marine operations	–	5.8	26.2	35.3	32.4	6.2	23.7
Communications and information technology	1 592.6	1 448.2	1 587.2	1 433.7	1 757.0	169.8	10.7
Medical	231.1	502.0	288.4	389.6	497.6	209.2	72.5
Special equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	959.1	729.3	967.7	279.7	721.5	(246.2)	(25.4)
Quick-impact projects	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 342.2</b>	<b>12 776.3</b>	<b>14 710.9</b>	<b>11 384.2</b>	<b>14 190.6</b>	<b>(520.3)</b>	<b>(3.5)</b>

26. The proposed resources for operational costs for the 2022/23 period represent a net decrease of \$520,300, or 3.5 per cent, compared with the resources approved for the 2021/22 period. The proposed net decrease for 2022/23 reflects lower requirements for facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, air operations and other supplies, services and equipment, offset in part by proposed increases under all other object classes.

27. **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) *Official travel.* A provision of \$254,300 is proposed for 2022/23, representing an increase of \$44,900, or 21.4 per cent, compared with the approved level of \$209,400 for 2021/22. Of the total travel resources for 2022/23, \$80,400 is proposed for official travel for training, representing an increase of \$16,700, or 26.2 per cent, while actual expenditure as at 31 March 2022 amounted to \$3,600. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the increase in travel requirements was related to the easing of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) travel

restrictions and was aimed at addressing a backlog of travel requiring in-person participation, in particular for training or substantively complex meetings. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that remote meetings and training activities had been taken into account in the level of travel requirements proposed, with in-person meetings being replaced with remote or virtual meetings whenever possible. **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 and meetings should be kept to a minimum and, if proposed, detailed justifications should be provided. The Committee therefore recommends a reduction of 15 per cent (\$38,100) to the proposed provision for official travel (\$254,300).** The Committee further discusses official travel in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/76/760](#));

(b) *Facilities and infrastructure.* A provision of \$6,858,100 is proposed for 2022/23, representing a reduction of \$79,600, or 1.1 per cent, compared with the approved level of \$6,937,700 for 2021/22. An amount of \$983,500 is requested for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance, while expenditure amounted to \$434,400 in 2020/21 and \$207,500 as at 31 March 2022. The level proposed for 2022/23 represents an increase of \$143,300, or 17.1 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2021/22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed increase was attributable primarily to the refurbishment of six helicopter landing sites, not provided for in the approved budget for 2021/22, and to the higher costs of refurbishment of a security perimeter around the United Nations Protected Area. **Taking into account the recent pattern of expenditure, the Advisory Committee considers that these additional requirements can be met within the established budget level for the budget class and recommends a reduction of 2 per cent (\$137,200) to the proposed provision for facilities and infrastructure (\$6,858,100);**

(c) *Communications and information technology.* Proposed requirements in the amount of \$1,757,000 reflect an increase of \$169,800, or 10.7 per cent. The increase is attributed primarily to higher requirements for maintenance of communications and information technology (an increase of \$250,600, or 59.1 per cent), owing to the digitization project for the Force's archives and records, in line with the policy of the Administration and the United Nations digital transformation strategy, and is offset in part by reduced requirements under telecommunication and network services (a decrease of \$94,700, or 26.8 per cent) owing to the replacement of a local leased line telephone service with voice over Internet protocol technology ([A/76/696](#), paras. 89 and 90). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the digitization project entailed the preparation, scanning, indexing and metadata analysis of a total volume of 1.5 million documents, equivalent to 600 archive boxes with 2,500 documents each, and that the expected duration of the project would be 18 months at a total cost of \$305,700, of which \$248,500 would be utilized in the 2022/23 period, primarily for the services of contracted personnel (10) to complete the scanning and processing of documents. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that further efficiencies can be found in the use of contractual personnel for the digitization project and recommends a reduction of 30 per cent (\$50,900) to the proposed increase under communications and information technology (\$169,800);**

(d) *Medical.* Proposed requirements in the amount of \$497,600 reflect an increase of \$209,200, or 72.5 per cent, attributable primarily to additional requirements for polymerase chain reaction testing as a result of COVID-19, which were not included in the 2021/22 budget. **The Advisory Committee notes the significant increase in budgeted resources for polymerase chain reaction testing in UNFICYP and trusts that a standardized and efficient approach to testing**

**procedures for COVID-19 is applied across peacekeeping missions.** The Committee further discusses medical requirements in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/76/760](#)).

28. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 25 and 27 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.**

## V. Other matters

### Gender balance and geographical representation

29. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proportion of female staff has been steadily increasing over the past three years and that, as at 31 January 2022, the percentage of female staff within the Force amounted to 43 per cent of total staffing, with representation in each staff category as follows: 0 per cent at the Assistant Secretary-General level, 100 per cent at the D-2 level, 0 per cent at the D-1 level, 50 per cent at the P-5 level, 30 per cent at the P-4 level, 80 per cent at the P-3 level, 47 per cent in the Field Service category, 57 per cent at the National Professional Officer level and 41 per cent in the national General Service category. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that, as at 4 March 2022, the civilian personnel of the Force comprised 38 international staff members from 25 Member States,<sup>2</sup> with five regional groups represented as follows: 2 from the African group, 8 from the Asia and the Pacific group, 8 from the Eastern European group, 1 from the Latin American and Caribbean group and 19 from the Western European and Others group. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the regional distribution of the 38 staff members as at 28 February 2021 was largely the same, with the only difference being 18 staff from the Western European and Others group and 9 staff from the Asia and the Pacific group. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the continued improvement in the gender balance within UNFICYP and trusts that the Force will pursue further efforts to improve its geographical representation and will continue to provide information thereon in future reports.** The Committee discusses further the gender balance and geographical representation in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/76/760](#)).

### Vehicle replacement plans

30. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed of the completion of the five-year phased replacement plan of leased vehicles with United Nations-owned vehicles and the corresponding decrease of requirements under ground transportation in the amount of \$618,400. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the planned acquisition of two ambulances and 13 light passenger vehicles in 2022/23 is based on a new five-year replacement plan for United Nations-owned vehicles that are in an advanced deteriorating condition or unsafe to operate.

### Solar plants project

31. The Secretary-General indicates that UNFICYP will continue to invest in clean and renewable energy through the proposed installation of two new photovoltaic solar plants in the 2022/23 period. It is also indicated in the budget proposal that efficiency

<sup>2</sup> Algeria (1), Australia (2), Brazil (1), Bulgaria (1), Canada (3), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (1), Iraq (1), Italy (1), Japan (1), Lebanon (1), Lithuania (1), Nigeria (1), Norway (1), Philippines (2), Romania (1), Russian Federation (2), Serbia (2), Sri Lanka (1), Tajikistan (1), Ukraine (1), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (3), United States of America (6) and State of Palestine (1).

gains of \$9,700 and \$6,500 would accrue over the course of the 2022/23 period with the installation of solar plants in sectors 1 and 4, respectively, which would be expected to achieve savings of 84 per cent and 79 per cent per year once fully operational. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with detailed information regarding the number of kilowatts peak (kWp) expected to be produced by the solar plants. The Committee notes that the estimated total kilowatt output under standard testing conditions amounts to 50.32 kWp for the two new plants to be installed in 2022/23. By contrast, the expected output rating for the three solar plants that are already operational is indicated as 160, 250 and 100 kWp. The Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with updated projections for power generation by the three systems in 2021/22 amounting to 649,032 kWh, which is nearly equivalent to the information previously reported for the 2021/22 period, indicating an estimated amount of 674,890 kWh to be generated as solar power, with projected savings of \$147,900 (see [A/75/822/Add.2](#), para. 28). The Committee also received, upon enquiry, actual consumption data for the three sites already operational, which indicate that the generation of kWh from solar sources far exceeds the estimated efficiency for two of the three photovoltaic sites in operation, at a projected actual output of approximately 256,176 kWh and 343,488 kWh for 2021. **Despite the ongoing operationalization of three solar plants beginning in July 2019, the Advisory Committee notes that UNFICYP budget proposals for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 periods did not include any projections for efficiencies resulting from the use of solar energy. Given projections that show an excess in power output for two of the three solar plants already in operation, and taking into account the future operationalization of the newly proposed solar plants, the Committee considers that materially greater efficiencies should be reflected in future budget proposals for the Force and recommends the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to thoroughly review and include, in future budget proposals, information on total yearly kilowatt generation and consumption from solar energy and projections of the related efficiencies.**

## VI. Conclusion

32. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with regard to the financing of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 are indicated in section V of the budget performance report ([A/76/549](#)). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of \$23,800 for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, and other revenue/adjustments amounting to \$829,200 from investment revenue (\$41,700), other miscellaneous revenue (\$257,700) and the cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$529,800) for the period ended 30 June 2021, be credited to Member States.**

33. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with regard to the financing of the Force for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget ([A/76/696](#)). **Taking into account its observations and recommendations above and its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/76/760](#)), the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$489,100, from \$54,507,700 to \$54,018,600. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$54,018,600 for the maintenance of the Force for the 12-month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, including \$23,603,400 to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus (\$17,103,400) and the Government of Greece (\$6,500,000).**