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Proposed programme budget for 2023

Proposed programme budget for 2023

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 2023

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for 2023 under section 3, Political affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment, for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 12 August 2022.

2. The Secretary-General, in addendum 1 to section 3, Political affairs, of his report on the proposed programme budget for 2023 ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2023 for 38 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Detailed information in respect of each special political mission is contained in five addenda to section 3 of the proposed programme budget.¹ The addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic

* [A/77/150](#).

¹ [A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), [A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#) and [A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#).



clusters I to III, UNAMA and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

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/77/7/Add.1](#)), while its specific comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in separate related reports.²

II. Budget performance for 2021 and 2022 and resource requirements for 2023

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

5. By its resolution [2626 \(2022\)](#) of 17 March 2022, the Security Council adopted changes to the mandate of UNAMA and extended it until 17 March 2023. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that UNAMA will: (a) coordinate and facilitate strengthened cooperation and coherence in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and financial resources for humanitarian activities that support basic human needs and development, consistent with a United Nations system-wide strategic planning framework; (b) coordinate efforts with donors and other stakeholders to increase accountability, transparency and effectiveness in the use of aid; (c) support efforts, including the provision of essential services, to create the conditions for self-reliance and stability among the Afghan population; provide outreach and good offices to promote dialogue between Afghan stakeholders, the region and the international community to promote inclusive, representative, participatory and responsive governance, including for women and girls, and provide advice on inclusive national and local consultative mechanisms, confidence-building measures and conflict management and reconciliation; promote responsible governance and the rule of law; (d) engage with all stakeholders on the promotion and protection of human rights; support regional cooperation; and (e) support, within the Mission's mandate, existing mechanisms to improve the overall security situation in Afghanistan ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#), paras. 1–2).

B. Information on resources for 2021, 2022 and 2023

6. The Secretary-General indicates that, for 2022, the General Assembly approved, by its resolution [76/246 A](#), section X, a commitment authority for 10 months and requested that a revised proposed budget for 2022 be submitted following the extension of the mandate of the Mission in early 2022. The Secretary-General also indicates that, given that the Assembly has yet to consider that budget and to approve an appropriation for UNAMA for 2022, no provision exists for the 2022 appropriation in his report, except for an amount of \$44,900, being the UNAMA portion of the additional resources appropriated for all regular budget entities in the context of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission, as approved by the Assembly in resolution [76/246 A](#), section

² [A/77/7/Add.2](#), [A/77/7/Add.3](#), [A/77/7/Add.4](#), [A/77/7/Add.5](#) and [A/77/7/Add.6](#).

XIV. It is also indicated that, in accordance with standard practice with respect to the presentation of budget reports, the baseline for a proposed budget for a forthcoming period to be compared against would normally be the appropriation for the current budget period. The appropriation for 2022 for UNAMA not being known at the time of the finalization of the report of the Secretary-General and in order to enable a more direct comparison of the resource changes in 2023 compared with 2022, the proposed budget includes the amount of the proposed resources as contained in the 2022 revised proposed budget (A/76/6 (Sect.3)/Add.9) as an additional reference, with the relevant variance analyses prepared on that basis, while bearing in mind that the revised proposal for 2022 is still subject to review and approval by the Assembly (A/77/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.5, paras. 35–36).

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the proposed resource requirements for 2023 for UNAMA, compared with the resources approved for 2021 and the revised proposed resources for 2022, as well as the expenditure incurred in 2021 and from January to June 2022. Table 1 also includes the revised resources recommended by the Committee for 2022, pending a decision of the General Assembly (see also A/76/7/Add.41, para. 50).

Table 1
Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2021		2022				2023	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Revised proposed requirements	Revised requirements recommended by the Advisory Committee ^a	Expenditure (as at 30 June 2022)	Proposed budget	2023 vs. 2022 increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(6)-(4)
Military and police personnel costs	41.5	(3.9)	–	24.6	24.6	(2.8)	24.6	–
Civilian personnel costs	98 285.1	99 093.5	44.9	89 557.9	89 293.4	45 538.1	94 502.2	5 208.8
Operational costs	38 548.6	37 580.3	–	44 027.4	42 027.4	23 820.5	39 083.1	(2 944.3)
Total	136 875.2	136 669.9	44.9	133 609.9	131 345.4^b	69 355.8	133 609.9	2 264.5

^a A/76/7/Add.41.

^b Including an amount of \$107,636,800 provided under commitment authority from 1 January to 31 October 2022, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/246 A, section XIV.

8. The Advisory Committee notes that its report on the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for 2022 under section 3, Political affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment, for UNAMA (A/76/7/Add.41) has not yet been considered by the General Assembly. Pending a decision of the Assembly on the appropriation for UNAMA for 2022, the recommended level of resources by the Committee for 2022 will serve as an additional comparator for the proposed resource requirements for 2023, as applicable.

C. Proposed resource requirements for 2023

9. The proposed resource requirements for 2023 for UNAMA amount to \$133,609,900 (net of staff assessment), unchanged compared with the proposed revised resource requirements for 2022. In its report on the revised resource requirements for 2022 (ibid., para. 50), the Advisory Committee recommended that

the General Assembly approve the proposed revised resources for 2022 in the amount of \$131,345,400, representing a decrease of \$2,264,500, or 1.7 per cent, compared with the proposed revised requirements for 2022. The proposed resource requirements for 2023 would, therefore, represent an increase of \$2,264,500, or 1.7 per cent, compared with the revised resources recommended by the Committee for 2022.

10. Expenditure in 2021 amounted to \$136,669,900, against an appropriation of \$136,875,200, reflecting an implementation rate of 99.9 per cent. As at 30 June 2022, expenditure of the resources of \$107,636,800 provided under the 10-month commitment authority amounted to \$69,355,800 (64.4 per cent). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on the 2022 expenditure to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

11. Detailed information on the variances is provided in part B of the report of the Secretary-General, indicating that the unchanged proposed resources of \$133,609,900 for 2023 are the net result of: (a) an increase of \$4,944,300 for civilian personnel costs; and (b) a decrease of \$4,944,300 for operational costs. As indicated in table 1, should the General Assembly approve the resources recommended by the Advisory Committee in the amount of \$131,345,400 for 2022, the proposed resources of \$133,609,900 represent an increase of \$2,264,500 as a result of: (a) an increase of \$5,208,800 for civilian personnel costs; and (b) a decrease of \$2,944,300 for operational costs.

1. Military and police personnel

12. The proposed requirements for military and police personnel for the deployment of one senior military observer amount to \$24,600, representing no change compared with the proposed revised resource requirements or the resources for 2022 recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/77/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.9, para. 61, and A/76/7/Add.41, para. 10). **The Advisory Committee trusts that an update on the incumbency of the military observer will be provided to the General Assembly during its consideration of the present report.**

2. Civilian personnel

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Positions	Level
Revised proposed positions for 2022	1 200	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), 125 NPO, 674 LL and 105 UNV
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the revised proposed budget for 2022 (A/76/7/Add.41)	1 188	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 27 P-5, 1 P-5 (GTA), 53 P-4, 58 P-3, 5 P-2, 138 FS, 1 GS (OL), 125 NPO, 674 LL and 95 UNV
Proposed positions for 2023	1 173	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 28 P-5, 55 P-4, 58 P-3, 5 P-2, 137 FS, 1 GS (OL), 127 NPO, 646 LL and 105 UNV
Proposed establishment	2	2 NPO
Proposed abolishment	29	1 FS and 28 LL
Proposed reassignment	1	1 LL

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); GTA, general temporary assistance; 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 37 to 50 of, and annexes II and III to, the report of the Secretary-General. As summarized in table 2, the total proposed staffing complement of 1,173 positions, which comprises 295 international positions (157 Professional and higher categories, 137 Field Service and 1 General Service (Other level)), 773 national positions (127 National Professional Officer and 646 Local level) and 105 United Nations Volunteer positions, represents a net decrease of 27 positions compared with the proposed revised staffing requirements for 2022. However, when compared with the staffing requirements recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2022, the proposal for 2023 represents a net decrease of 15 positions.

14. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in its recent report on the revised estimates for 2022, which is still to be considered by the General Assembly, it provided the following recommendations regarding staffing requirements:

(a) The Committee recommended against the reassignment of the position of Electoral Affairs Officer (P-4) from the closed Elections Support Office to the newly established Strategic Engagement Advisory Service and, instead, recommended the abolishment of the position ([A/76/7/Add.41](#), para. 13);

(b) The Committee recommended against the reassignment of the vacant position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Baghlan (Pul-e Khumri) field office to the newly established Risk Management Coordination Section and, instead, recommended the abolishment of the position (*ibid.*, para. 15);

(c) The Committee recommended against the redeployment of the position of Senior Judicial Affairs Officer (P-5) from the Political Affairs Service to the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator as a Senior Programme Management Officer (Mine Action Service) (P-5). The Committee recommended the abolishment of the position of Senior Judicial Affairs Officer (P-5) and the approval of the function of Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5) as a general temporary assistance position, pending the results of the independent review of mine action in peacekeeping operations and the conclusion of a new memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Office for Project Services (*ibid.*, para. 21);

(d) The Committee recommended the conversion of 20 national United Nations Volunteer positions, instead of 30 such positions, from extrabudgetary to regular budget funding. The Committee recalls that it was informed that the recruitment for all 30 positions would commence once the 2022 revised proposed budget had been approved by the General Assembly and that the Secretary-General anticipated that they would be fully filled in January 2023 (*ibid.*, para. 28).

15. The Advisory Committee recommends that the staffing requirements for UNAMA for 2023 be adjusted in accordance with its recommendations, as summarized in paragraph 14 above.

16. The proposed staffing requirements for 2023 include the changes described in the paragraphs below in comparison with the revised proposal for 2022.

Establishment

17. It is proposed that one position of Political Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) be established in the front office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Political Affairs) to facilitate and maintain strong working relationships with senior-level interlocutors of the de facto authorities, former government officials who have remained in Kabul, and civil society organizations, think tanks and relevant leaders of ethnic and other

communities, and to develop new relationships with relevant actors and groups as the political situation evolves ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#), para. 48).

18. It is proposed that one position of Coordination Officer (National Professional Officer) be established in the front office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator to undertake research and analysis on the delivery of assistance in Afghanistan, ascertaining the humanitarian and basic human needs of the people of Afghanistan and the work of the de facto authorities in relation to overall aid coordination; to develop close working relationships with Afghan civil society, the private sector and the media for effective advocacy, engagement and participation to better position and deliver aid in Afghanistan; and to advocate with the de facto authorities for rights, inclusion, equity, transparency and accountability in aid delivery (*ibid.*, para. 50). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed position was not financed by a cost-sharing arrangement with the resident coordinator system. **The Advisory Committee notes that the incumbent of the position would perform functions that are related to the provision of humanitarian assistance and is of the view that the funding of the position should be cost-shared with the resident coordinator system. The Committee recommends that the position be established as a general temporary assistance position (P-4) at this stage and trusts that updated information, including on the possible cost-sharing arrangement, will be provided in the next budget submission.**

Reassignment

19. It is proposed that one position of Administrative Assistant (Local level) be reassigned as Political Affairs Assistant (Local level) in the Kabul Regional Office to engage with the de facto authorities, civil society, and community members, religious scholars, women representatives and other stakeholders on a range of issues to promote political stability and consultative governance at the local level (*ibid.*, para. 57).

Abolishment

20. As a result of the proposed closure of the Alpha compound in Kabul (see para. 32 below), the following abolishments are proposed: (a) 10 positions of Field Security Guard (Local level) from the Security Section (*ibid.*, para. 45); and (b) 16 positions of Driver (Local level) from the Transport Unit (*ibid.*, para. 53).

21. It is also proposed that three positions (1 Finance Assistant (Field Service) and 2 Finance Assistant (Local level)) in the Kuwait Joint Support Office be abolished as part of an effort by the Secretariat to align the funding sources of the Office to better reflect the workload and the client base that the Office serves (*ibid.*, para. 60). **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the Kuwait Joint Support Office is not a shared service centre approved by the General Assembly. Furthermore, in accordance with Assembly resolution 70/248 A, any changes to the existing and future service delivery model must be approved by the Assembly ([A/76/7/Add.1](#), para. 62). The Committee therefore recommends against the proposed abolishment of one position of Finance Assistant (Field Service) and two positions of Finance Assistant (Local level) in the Kuwait Joint Support Office. Any non-post requirements should be adjusted accordingly.** The Advisory Committee provides further observations on the Kuwait Joint Support Office in its main report on the estimates for 2023 in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)).

Vacant positions

22. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 May 2022, there were 107 vacant positions (1 ASG, 3 P-5, 10 P-4, 14 P-3, 3 P-2, 14 Field Service, 53 Local level and 9 United Nations Volunteer), of which 6 had been vacant for 24 months or longer (1 P-2, 1 Field Service and 4 Local level). According to the Secretary-General, the recruitment process had been put on hold until after the renewal of the mandate in March 2022 and the recruitment for the position of Associate Finance Officer (P-2) at the Kuwait Joint Support Office had been initiated and was expected to be completed soon. In addition, the position of Finance Assistant (Field Service) had, as indicated above, been proposed for abolishment in 2023 (A/76/7/Add.41, para. 31). **The Advisory Committee trusts that all vacant positions will be filled expeditiously 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.**

Vacancy rates

23. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on the approved vacancy rates for 2021, the actual vacancy rates for 2021 and the actual average and the actual vacancy rates as at 31 May 2022, as well as the budgeted vacancy rates for 2023, for UNAMA (see table 3). Table 3 also includes the vacancy rates recommended by the Committee for 2022. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further clarification on the budgeted vacancy rates for 2023 will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of consideration of the present report.**

Table 3
Vacancy rates, 2021–2023

(Percentage)

Category	Approved 2021	Actual 2021	Actual average January–May 2022	Actual (as at 31 May 2022)	Proposed 2022	Advisory Committee recommendation for 2022 ^a	Proposed 2023
Military and police personnel							
Military observer	–	–	17	100	17	17	17
Civilian personnel							
International staff	6	13	16	16	14	14	9
National staff							
National Professional Officer	3	9	9	10	9	9	4
Local level	3	4	8	9	9	9	4
United Nations Volunteer							
International	7	15	16	15 ^a	16	16	10
National	–	–	–	–	40	50	7

^a A/76/7/Add.41, para. 28 and table 4.

Special post allowance

24. In the context of its report on the revised proposed requirements for 2022, the Advisory Committee was informed that five positions were currently encumbered temporarily by staff members receiving a special post allowance (A/76/7/Add.41, para. 34), as shown in table 4.

Table 4
Positions encumbered temporarily by staff members receiving a special post allowance as at 31 May 2022

<i>Organizational unit</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Effective date of special post allowance</i>	<i>Expiry date of special post allowance</i>
Kuwait Joint Support Office	Field Service	Administrative Officer	1 August 2019	31 July 2022
Donor Coordination Section	P-5	Senior Programme Management Officer	1 August 2020	31 October 2022
Regional Office Kabul – Substantive	P-4	Political Affairs Officer	13 February 2021	31 October 2022
Security Section	P-4	Security Information Analyst	21 February 2022	31 October 2022
Strategic Communications Service	P-4	TV/Video Producer	4 April 2022	31 October 2022

25. Subject to its recommendation in paragraphs 15, 18 and 21 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for civilian personnel for 2023 for UNAMA.

3. Operational costs

26. The proposed resource requirements for operational costs for 2023 amount to \$39,083,100, reflecting a decrease of \$4,944,300, or 11.2 per cent, compared with the proposed revised resource requirements for 2022 in the amount of \$44,027,400. As indicated in table 1, in its report on the proposed revised resource requirements for 2022, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve operational resources for 2022 in the amount of \$42,027,400. Expenditure in 2021 amounted to \$37,580,300, against an appropriation of \$38,548,600, reflecting an implementation rate of 97.5 per cent. As at 30 June 2022, expenditure under operational costs amounted to \$23,820,500.

Air operations

27. The proposed resource requirements for 2023 amount to \$8,464,000, reflecting a net decrease of \$1,502,200, or 17.7 per cent, compared with the proposed revised resource requirements for 2022 of \$9,966,200. The Advisory Committee recalls that expenditure as at 30 June 2022 amounted to \$5,284,500, with high expenditure in March and April of \$2,592,800 and \$2,292,100, respectively, and considerably lower amounts, varying from a surplus of \$77,600 to expenditure of \$406,700, for the remaining months (*ibid.*, para. 40). Expenditure in 2021 amounted to \$7,595,500, against an appropriation of \$6,950,800, reflecting an implementation rate of 109.3 per cent, and expenditure in 2020 amounted to \$6,102,800, against an appropriation of \$7,591,000, reflecting an implementation rate of 80.4 per cent.

28. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, based on discussions with the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority, UNAMA was expecting an improvement in the country's airspace management. According to the Secretary-General, the de facto Government was seeking a contract that would restore to normalcy flight operations within the country. Contracts for ground handling and airport security had already been signed with an international company. Similarly, the security situation had improved compared with the situation following the events of August 2021. Given those circumstances, it was envisaged that the air war risk insurance premium would not be required in 2023. The Committee was also informed that the decreased requirements for 2023 were attributable mainly to the new contract negotiated at commercial rates with United Nations-registered operators, of which the air war risk insurance was part, as well as the cancellation of that insurance for rotary-wing operations, and reduced requirements for landing fees and ground handling charges, air crew subsistence allowance and services, offset by the planned increase in the number of flight hours for both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft owing mainly to less reliance in 2023 on the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service for within-Mission travel (see also para. 31 below).

29. While noting the reduced requirements in comparison with the proposed revised resource requirements for 2022, the Advisory Committee notes that the proposal for 2023 is 21.8 per cent and 11.5 per cent higher than the appropriations for 2021 and 2020, respectively, despite the expected return to normalized flight operations within the country. Furthermore, the Committee is not convinced that possible efficiencies to be gained by the use of United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights were fully taken into consideration in the proposed resources for 2023. Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction of 3 per cent, or \$253,900, to the proposed resources for air operations.

Communications and information technology

30. The proposed resource requirements for 2023 amount to \$6,424,300, reflecting a net increase of \$239,200, or 3.9 per cent, compared with the revised proposed requirements for 2022 of \$6,185,100. Expenditure as at 30 June 2022 amounted to \$2,451,500. Expenditure in 2021 amounted to \$4,560,100, against an appropriation of \$5,330,900, reflecting an implementation rate of 85.5 per cent. **Taking into consideration the low level of expenditure in 2021 and during the first six months of 2022, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$642,400, to the proposed resources for communications and information technology.**

Other supplies, services and equipment

31. The proposed resource requirements for 2023 amount to \$1,753,500, reflecting a net decrease of \$736,000, or 29.6 per cent, compared with the revised proposed requirements for 2022 of \$2,489,500. It is indicated that the proposed decrease is due to the reduced requirement of fees for the shipment of cash into the Mission area and reduced requirements for other freight and related charges as a result of less reliance on within-Mission travel in Afghanistan through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, for 2023, it was expected that UNAMA would reduce its reliance on the Air Service, and that, accordingly, the proposed resources under other supplies, services and equipment included a provision of \$129,400 for freight and related services, based on the estimated requirements of 35 UNAMA staff who utilized the Air Service per month, at a rate of \$308 per seat, for the 12 months of 2023. Expenditure as at 30 June 2022 amounted to \$540,400. **Taking into consideration the level of expenditure as at 30 June 2022, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the proposed**

resource requirements under other supplies, services and equipment are fully justified and recommends an adjustment of 5 per cent, or \$87,700, to the proposed resources for other supplies, services and equipment.

Alpha compound

32. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#), para. 73), the decrease of \$2,302,800 for 2023 under facilities and infrastructure is attributable mainly to the reduced requirements for security services, rental of premises and maintenance services as a result of the closure and non-renewal of the lease of the Alpha compound in Kabul in July 2023. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that there were currently 20 Field Security Guard (Local level) positions at the Alpha compound, of which 10 had been proposed for abolishment as at 1 January 2023. The remaining 10 positions would be moved to the United Nations Operations Centre in Afghanistan compound to support operations. The Committee was also informed that the closure of the Alpha compound and the future rental of yet-to-be-identified new premises were expected to reduce the requirement for the staffing pool associated with the compound by 50 per cent, namely 16 positions of Driver (Local level), of which 8 were vacant. Furthermore, the 16 retained positions would be temporarily redeployed to the United Nations Operations Centre in Afghanistan compound, where all substantive personnel were located. Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that the timeline of the closure of the Alpha compound was under discussion and not confirmed. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide an update on the timeline of the closure of the Alpha compound to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Closure of intensive care unit

33. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (*ibid.*, para. 81), the decreased requirements under medical are attributable mainly to the closure of the intensive care unit, as recommended by the Division of Health-Care Management and Occupational Safety and Health, and decreased acquisitions of medical equipment. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the intensive care unit related specifically to the arrangements put in place with Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund support (administered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) to treat serious cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prior to evacuation and not to intensive care unit services in general. Furthermore, the joint medical services managed the COVID-19 intensive care unit from January to June 2022, with the UNAMA share of the cost for that period, amounting to \$323,597, included in the revised budget proposal for 2022. The Committee was also informed that the facility and equipment of the intensive care unit would remain in place should there be a future need.

34. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 25, 29 and 30 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs for 2023 for UNAMA.

III. Other matters

Cost-sharing arrangements

35. The Advisory Committee recalls that the UNAMA staffing includes a number of positions to be cost-shared with the resident coordinator system and agencies, funds and programmes, comprising the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the development pillar (Assistant Secretary-General) cost-shared at 50 per cent with UNAMA and 50 per cent with the resident coordinator

system, as well as positions of Field Security Guard (Local level) cost-shared with agencies, funds and programmes, with UNAMA covering 33 per cent of the costs of those positions. The Committee was informed that, while progress to increase cost-sharing overall had been achieved over the years, only limited progress had been made in reaching an agreement with agencies, funds and programmes on the remaining security services provided by UNAMA (A/76/7/Add.41, para. 48).

36. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information showing the UNAMA share of the total cost of security as contained in the 2023 proposed budget, and the contribution by agencies, funds and programmes (see table 5).

Table 5

Security costs shared between UNAMA and agencies, funds and programmes, 2023

(United States dollars)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Total cost</i>	<i>UNAMA share (budgeted)</i>	<i>Agencies, funds and programmes share</i>
UNAMA security staff cost	24 103 000	22 981 000	1 122 000
Security services	14 598 176	9 529 101	5 069 075
Total	38 701 176	32 510 101	6 191 075

37. **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNAMA will continue its efforts to formalize cost-sharing arrangements of security-related support provided to agencies, funds and programmes, and provide an update thereon in the context of the report on the proposed requirements for 2024. The Committee 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 efforts of UNAMA to succeed (A/76/7/Add.41, para. 48).**

Mission assets

38. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMA had 1,649 real estate fixed assets and 5,954 items of serialized equipment in situ. During August 2021, when the Taliban overthrew the previous Government, unknown persons entered and looted some UNAMA compounds. In the challenging environment of the prevailing security situation, UNAMA staff subsequently visited the compounds and identified that four fixed assets, including two armoured vehicles, and 106 items of serialized equipment, including information technology-related equipment, had been looted. The Committee was informed that, following a security report, those had been written off.

Gender and geographical representation

39. The geographical statistics of staff provided to the Advisory Committee indicated that, as at 31 May 2022, of the staff filling the 248 international positions in UNAMA, 69 came from African States, 68 from Western European and other States, 67 from Asian and Pacific States, 37 from Eastern European States and 7 from Latin American and Caribbean States. The Committee was also informed that, of the Professional staff at the P-5 level and higher as at 31 May 2022, Western European and other States accounted for the highest proportion (15), followed by African States (5) and Asian and Pacific and Eastern European States (2 each). The Committee was also informed that 201 female staff (107 international and 94 national) were employed

by UNAMA as at 30 June 2022, representing 13.7 per cent and 16.1 per cent of the total staff incumbency under those categories, respectively.

40. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, since 2016, UNAMA had taken specific measures to increase the number of national female staff, including obtaining approval from the Office of Human Resources to implement special measures to reduce the years of work experience required for national female candidates who had completed high school or tertiary education (holding university degrees); waiving written tests for positions at the G-4 level and below; ensuring that hiring managers reached out to potential national female candidates before advertising job openings; and implementing the national female United Nations Volunteers project, which started in 2019 and had provided a unique opportunity for well-trained female Afghans with United Nations experience to apply for and be recruited to other vacancies open to national staff. **The Advisory Committee notes the special measures adopted by UNAMA and trusts that the Mission will continue its efforts to improve both gender and geographical representation, including in high-level positions.** The Advisory Committee makes further observations on gender and geographical representation in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)) and chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2023 ([A/77/7](#)).
