



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
19 August 2022

Original: English

---

## Seventy-seventh session

Item 139 of the provisional agenda\*

### 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 for Iraq

### Seventh 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 proposed resource requirements for 2023 for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 11 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.<sup>1</sup> The addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and UNAMI.

---

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

<sup>1</sup> [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](#).



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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

5. In its resolution [2631 \(2022\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 May 2023. The report of the Secretary-General provides information on the Mission's programme plan, assumptions and planned results (see [A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), sect. I.A). As indicated in paragraphs 2 to 7 of that report, in 2023, UNAMI will, inter alia, continue to provide good offices, encourage inclusive political dialogue and reconciliation, support the Government's constitutional reforms and support electoral processes. It will also continue to promote accountability, the protection of human rights and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and gender mainstreaming, in addition to sustainable long-term development. Furthermore, UNAMI will support the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD).

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as part of its mandate to advise institutions in Iraq on strengthening electoral processes, UNAMI will support the implementation of the recommendations of joint lessons learned from the 2021 parliamentary elections, including in the preparations for regional parliamentary elections in the Kurdistan Region and the long overdue provincial council elections, or preparation thereof, which could be held in 2023.

### **B. Information on resources for 2021, 2022 and 2023**

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the proposed resource requirements for 2023 for UNAMI, compared with the resources approved for 2021 and 2022, as well as the expenditure incurred in 2021 and in the period from January to June 2022, as summarized in table 1.

---

<sup>2</sup> [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](#).

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

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2021		2022		2023		Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure (January–June)	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	2023 vs. 2022 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
Military and police personnel costs	5 310.2	5 163.9	5 140.3	3 759.8	4 939.7	–	(200.6)
Civilian personnel costs	80 123.2	77 541.6	79 333.5	39 057.8	75 690.2	–	(3 643.3)
Operational costs	13 643.4	13 160.3	13 199.4	7 842.2	16 474.6	2 520.0	3 275.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>99 076.8</b>	<b>95 865.8</b>	<b>97 673.2</b>	<b>50 659.8</b>	<b>97 104.5</b>	<b>2 520.0</b>	<b>(568.7)</b>

8. Expenditure in 2021 amounted to \$95,865,800 against an appropriation of \$99,076,800, reflecting an implementation rate of 96.8 per cent. As at 30 June 2022, expenditure amounted to \$50,659,800 against an appropriation of \$97,673,200, reflecting a 51.9 per cent implementation rate. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on expenditures for 2022 to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

### C. Proposed resource requirements for 2023

9. As shown in table 1, the resource requirements proposed for UNAMI for 2023 amount to \$97,104,500, representing a net decrease of \$568,700, or 0.6 per cent, compared with the resources approved for the Mission for 2022. The decrease reflects reduced catering contract costs for the United Nations Guard Unit, as well as lower civilian personnel costs, due primarily to the proposed abolishment of 34 positions, the conversion of six positions from international to national positions, and the application of a lower percentage of common staff costs for national staff. The decrease is offset by increased operational costs, mainly under facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation and official travel ([A/77/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), para. 30). A summary of the main variances between the approved resources for 2022 and the proposed requirements for 2023 is provided in paragraphs 54 to 77 of the report of the Secretary-General.

#### 1. Military and police personnel

10. Proposed resources in the amount of \$4,939,700 would provide for the deployment of 245 military contingent personnel, at the same level as 2022, and related requirements. The decrease of \$200,600, or 3.9 per cent, is mainly attributable to reduced costs for rations based on new contract rates, which is offset by increased requirements for travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation (*ibid.*, paras. 54 and 55).

11. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for military personnel for 2023 for UNAMI.**

#### 2. Civilian personnel

12. The proposed requirements under civilian personnel amount to \$75,690,200, representing a decrease of \$3,643,300, or 4.6 per cent, and mainly reflect: (a) proposed staffing changes related to the abolishment of 34 positions, the

downward reclassification of three positions and the conversion of six international positions to national positions; and (b) lower national staff requirements resulting from the application of a lower percentage of common staff costs. The decrease is partly offset by higher requirements for danger pay for national staff (*ibid.*, paras. 56–61).

13. A summary of the proposed staffing requirements and changes is contained in paragraphs 29 to 53 of, and annexes II and III to, the report of the Secretary-General. The proposed staffing of 773 positions, which comprises 278 international staff (127 in the Professional and higher categories and 151 Field Service), 493 national staff (122 National Professional Officer and 371 Local level) and 2 United Nations Volunteers, reflects a decrease of 31 positions compared with the approved level for 2022. The proposed staffing changes are, as follows: (a) establishment of 3 positions; (b) abolishment of 34 positions; (c) redeployment of 31 positions; (d) reassignment of 5 positions; (e) downward reclassification of 3 positions; and (f) conversion of 6 positions, as summarized in table 2.

Table 2  
**Staffing requirements**

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Level</i>
Approved for 2022	804	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 18 P-5, 47 P-4, 53 P-3, 4 P-2, 161 FS, 118 NPO, 391 LL, 2 UNV
Proposal for 2023	773	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 16 P-5, 45 P-4, 51 P-3, 5 P-2, 151 FS, 122 NPO, 371 LL, 2 UNV
Establishment	3	1 Associate Logistics Officer (NPO) 1 Associate Human Resources Officer (NPO) 1 Assistant Administrative Officer (NPO)
Abolishment	(34)	1 Chief of Supply Chain Management (P-5) 1 Coordination Officer (P-4) 1 Field Interpreter (P-3) 1 Human Rights Officer (P-3) 1 Telecommunications Technician (FS) 1 Information System Assistant (FS) 1 Facilities Management Assistant (FS) 1 Receiving and Inspecting Assistant (FS) 1 Finance Assistant (FS) in the Kuwait Joint Support Office 1 Associate Field Translator (NPO) 1 Information Analyst (NPO) 2 Associate Coordination Officers (NPO) 1 Human Resources Assistant (LL) 1 Field Language Assistant (LL) 2 Administrative Assistants (LL) 1 Information Technology Assistant (LL) 1 Telecommunication Assistant (LL) 1 Mail Assistant (LL) 1 Generator Mechanic (LL) 1 Driver (LL) 3 Heavy Vehicle Operators (LL) 1 Administrative Assistant (LL)

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Level</i>
		1 Movement Control Assistant (LL)
		2 Supply Assistants (LL)
		2 Finance Assistants (LL) in the Kuwait Joint Support Office
		1 Logistics Assistant (LL)
		1 Human Resources Assistant (LL)
		1 Administrative Assistant (LL)
Redeployment	–	1 Associate Programme Management Officer (NPO) from the Office of the Chief of Staff to the Gender Unit
		1 Human Rights Officer (P-4) from Kirkuk to Baghdad
		1 Security Coordination Officer (P-3) from Mosul to Baghdad
		1 Associate Field Security Coordination Officer (P-2)
		1 Assistant Security Officer (NPO) from Baghdad to Mosul
		1 Associate Security Officer (P-2) from Erbil to Basrah
		3 Close Protection Officers (FS) to Baghdad, 2 from Mosul and 1 from Kirkuk
		11 positions (1 P-5 (Senior Information Analyst, Political affairs), 1 P-4 (Information Analyst), 3 P-3 (1 Information Analyst, 1 Political Affairs Officer and 1 Economic Affairs Officer), 5 National Professional Officers (2 Information Analysts and 3 Associate Information Analysts), and 1 Local level (Administrative Assistant)) from the Joint Analysis Unit to the Office of Political Affairs and Analysis
		1 Assistant Welfare Officer (NPO) from the Office of Chief of Mission Support to Integrated Facilities Management and Welfare Unit
		4 positions (1 Travel Assistant (LL), 1 Liaison Assistant (LL) and 2 Team Assistants (LL)) from the Office of the Chief of Mission Support to the Human Resources Section
		1 Finance & Budget Officer (P-3) from Erbil to Baghdad
		1 Procurement Assistant (FS) from Baghdad to Erbil
		1 Procurement Assistant (LL) from Kuwait to Erbil
		1 Engineering Technician (FS) from Erbil to Mosul
		1 Transport Assistant (Field Service) from Baghdad to Erbil
		1 Supply Assistant (LL) from Baghdad to Mosul
Reassignment	–	1 Security Officer (FS) as Fire and Safety Officer (FS)
		1 Associate Administrative Officer (NPO) as Protocol Officer (NPO)
		1 Associate Protocol Officer (NPO) as Liaison Officer (NPO)
		1 Associate Property Control and Inventory Officer (NPO) as Associate Environment Affairs Officer (NPO)
		1 Administrative Assistant (LL) as Finance Assistant (LL)
Reclassification	–	1 Senior Legal Officer (P-5 to P-4)
		1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4 to P-3)
		1 Human Rights Officer (P-4) to Associate Human Rights Officer (P-2)
Conversion	–	1 Political Affairs Officer (P-3 to NPO)
		1 Human Resources Assistant (FS) to Associate Human Resources Officer (NPO)
		1 Vehicle Technician (FS) to Assistant Transport Officer (NPO)
		1 Movement Control Assistant (FS) to Assistant Movement Control Officer (NPO)
		1 Supply Assistant (FS) to Associate Supply Officer (NPO)
		1 Transport Assistant (FS to LL)

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

14. Information provided to the Advisory Committee on the proposed staffing changes includes the following:

(a) Three Finance Assistant positions in the Kuwait Joint Support Office (1 Field Service and 2 Local level), are proposed for abolishment as part of an effort to achieve a more balanced distribution of the workforce of the Support Office and its clients, with proposals being made to reduce a total of six positions from UNAMA and UNAMI, and to establish those positions in four other special political missions. **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 three Finance Assistant positions (1 Field Service and 2 Local level) in the Kuwait Joint Support Office.** The Committee makes further observations on the Kuwait Joint Support Office in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/77/7/Add.1).

(b) One Human Rights Officer (P-3) position, located in Baghdad, is also proposed for abolishment. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the related functions have been adequately covered by existing staffing within the Human Rights Office since the position became vacant on 1 August 2021, with the incumbent taking special leave without pay. **While the Advisory Committee does not object to the proposed abolishment, it notes the categorization of the position as vacant while the incumbent was on special leave without pay, and trusts that all applicable Staff Regulations and Rules will be duly applied.**

#### *Nationalization of positions*

15. The Secretary-General proposes the nationalization of six positions, as follows: one P-3 position to National Professional Officer in the Office of Political Affairs and Analysis; and five Field Service positions to four National Professional Officer positions and one Local level position within Mission Support. The Advisory Committee notes that this proposal is accompanied by the proposed abolishment of 25 national positions, including 21 Local level positions mainly related to the restructuring of Mission Support (see para. 17 below). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, notwithstanding the proposed abolishments, the proportion of UNAMI national positions to the total staff would nonetheless increase from 63.6 per cent approved for 2022 to 64.0 per cent, as reflected in the budget submission for 2023. **The Advisory Committee notes that national positions are the most impacted by the proposed restructuring and abolishments. The Committee trusts that the Mission will continue to pursue efforts to promote nationalization and capacity-building, and present related proposals in the context of future budget submissions.** The Committee further discusses nationalization in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/77/7/Add.1).

#### *Restructuring*

16. The Secretary-General proposes the following structural reconfigurations:

(a) The creation of the Office of Political Affairs and Analysis, through the merger of the Joint Analysis Unit with the Office of Political Affairs. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, by bringing together real-time reporting and analysis of political developments with long-term, in-depth policy planning and strategic analyses, UNAMI would acquire a greater understanding of the interconnections of political, economic and conflict-related developments. Additionally, a merged unit would facilitate the sharing of integrated political and

contextual analysis with other United Nations entities in Iraq. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the strengthened analytical capacity of the Office of Political Affairs and Analysis will support and inform the work of UNAMI and other United Nations entities in Iraq (see also para. 17 below).**

(b) The creation of a two-pillar mission support structure, comprising the Operations and Resource Management pillar and the proposed Supply Chain and Service Delivery Management pillar, to be created from the merger of the Supply Chain Management and the Service Delivery Management pillars. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the merger would result in a net decrease of 36 positions. It was considered that a leaner structure would be better suited for a mission like UNAMI and would enhance the effectiveness of its operations, particularly as the Mission has moved to a maintenance phase, with the completion of major construction projects. The Committee was further informed that the Department of Operational Support was developing guiding principles tailored to special political missions to assist them to determine appropriate structures, functions and resources, while maintaining a level of standardization and ensuring segregation of duties. The Committee further discusses mission support structures in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)).

(c) The realignment of the Procurement Section, Contracts Management Unit and Training Unit under the Operations and Resource Management Pillar.

(d) The split of the Engineering and Facilities Management Section into the Engineering Section and the Integrated Facilities Management Unit, in response to a need for a dedicated facilities and welfare section which will provide services to the United Nations country team and other clients accommodated and operating from the Baghdad integrated compound (see also para. 34 below).

17. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed reconfigurations and staffing changes aim to achieve greater efficiency gains through the streamlining of business processes; optimization of existing staff resources, also based on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and changing realities on the ground; and capacity-building of national staff, with a view to identifying nationalization opportunities. **The Advisory Committee acknowledges the strategic approach of the Mission to streamline its structures and resources, seek efficiencies in mandate delivery and adapt to evolving circumstances, including through the incorporation of lessons learned and the promotion of nationalization. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide an update on the restructuring, including related lessons learned, in the context of the next budget proposal.**

#### *Vacant positions*

18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 20 July 2022, 31 positions (4 Field Service, 8 National Professional Officer and 19 Local level) had been vacant for two years or more. Of those positions: 8 (1 National Professional Officer and 7 Local level) are being proposed for abolishment in 2023; 7 (1 Field Service, 3 National Professional Officer, 3 Local level) had been encumbered or were onboarding; 9 (1 Field Service, 4 National Professional Officer, 4 Local level) were at different stages of recruitment; and recruitment for 7 (2 Field Service, 5 Local level) had not been initiated. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern the number of long-standing vacant positions, particularly in the national categories. The Committee trusts that the vacancies will be filled expeditiously and updated information on their recruitment status will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the context of the next budget**

**submission.** The Committee makes further observations on vacant positions in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)).

#### *Vacancy rates*

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on the approved positions and vacancy rates for 2022, the actual vacancy rates as at 30 June 2022 and average rates for the period from January to June 2022, as well as the proposed positions and budgeted vacancy rates for 2023 for UNAMI (see table 3). The Committee notes that the budgeted vacancy rates are lower than the actual rates as at 30 June 2022 and the average vacancy rates for the first six months of 2022 for all categories. **The Advisory Committee trusts that further clarification on the budgeted vacancy rates will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.** The Committee makes further observations on vacancy rates in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)).

Table 3  
**Number of positions and vacancy rates, 2022–2023**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved positions, 2022</i>	<i>Approved vacancy rate, 2022 (percentage)</i>	<i>Vacancy rate as at 30 June 2022 (percentage)</i>	<i>Average vacancy rate, January–June 2022 (percentage)</i>	<i>Proposed positions, 2023</i>	<i>Budgeted vacancy rate, 2023 (percentage)</i>
International staff	293	8	12	12	278	8
National Professional Officer	118	9	14	14	122	9
National staff (Local level)	391	7	12	11	371	7
United Nations Volunteer	2	—	—	—	2	—

20. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 14 (a) above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for 2023 for UNAMI.**

### **3. Operational costs**

21. The proposed requirements for operational costs for 2023 amount to \$16,474,600, reflecting an increase of \$3,275,200 compared with the appropriation for 2022, resulting mainly from higher requirements under: (a) facilities and infrastructure, primarily in connection with the planned renovation of the Kuwait office; (b) ground transportation, owing to the planned replacement of two medium armoured buses that are past their life expectancy; and (c) official travel due to the anticipated increase in in-person meetings and activities to support effective mandate implementation. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the operational costs for UNAMI, including the appropriation and expenditure for 2021 and the appropriation for 2022 and expenditure up to 30 June 2022, as well as proposed requirements for 2023, as shown in table 4.



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

Category of expenditure	2021		2022		2023	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, January–June	Total requirements	2023 vs. 2022 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
<b>Operational costs</b>						
Experts	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consultants and consulting services	255.2	74.3	136.8	127.0	325.2	188.4
Official travel	1 015.8	351.3	773.0	272.2	1 133.0	360.0
Facilities and infrastructure	3 241.4	4 100.1	3 488.2	2 601.6	6 746.4	3 258.2
Ground transportation	735.8	1 174.8	535.5	322.6	1 056.5	521.0
Air operations	3 162.1	3 318.3	3 226.1	2 564.2	3 150.5	(75.6)
Communications and information technology	2 874.8	3 203.2	2 692.4	1 547.9	2 707.0	14.6
Medical	280.0	255.7	324.5	105.5	334.9	10.4
Other supplies, services and equipment	2 078.3	682.8	2 022.9	301.2	1 021.1	(1 001.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 643.4</b>	<b>13 160.3</b>	<b>13 199.4</b>	<b>7 842.2</b>	<b>16 474.6</b>	<b>3 275.2</b>

*Consultants and consulting services*

22. The proposed requirements for consultants and consulting services amount to \$325,200, reflecting an increase of \$188,400, or 137.7 per cent compared with the appropriation for 2022. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase is mainly due to additional requirements for specialized expertise on technical matters, such as political economy, with a focus on revenue sharing, federalism and oil sector governance; conflict prevention and armed groups; reconciliation, constitutional amendment and key legislative processes; and mental health services for the Mission's personnel (see para. 23 below). Expenditure amounted to \$74,300 for 2021 and \$127,000 as at 30 June 2022, against an appropriation of \$255,200 for 2021 and \$136,800 for 2022. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the use of consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and that core activities should be performed by in-house capacity (see A/75/7/Add.7, para. 19). Taking into account existing resources within the Mission, particularly in core mandate areas, the need to strengthen internal expertise (see also para. 15 above) and the low level of expenditure in 2021 and during the first six months of 2022, the Committee recommends a reduction of 20 per cent, or \$37,700, to the proposed increase under consultants and consulting services.**

23. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI engaged an external company to provide staff counselling as at April 2022, given the capacity constraints of the Mission's Counselling Unit to ensure adequate provision of services to nearly 2,500 staff in UNAMI, UNITAD and the United Nations country teams across eight offices in Iraq and Kuwait (see also A/76/7/Add.6, para. 14). The cost of outsourced counselling amounts to \$81,700 per year, reflecting annual savings of \$91,600, compared with the cost of the Staff Counsellor (P-3) position, abolished in 2022, that was providing those services. Additionally, under the new arrangement, staff may choose from among eight counsellors, who possess doctorates and a minimum of 10 years of professional experience, and can seek support in the language of their choice, including Arabic, English and Kurdish. In the first two months of

operation, 18 staff used this service and UNAMI expects an increased utilization in the near future. The Committee was also informed that the outsourcing of staff counselling had previously been adopted at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, but no other mission had replicated this approach at the time of writing. **The Advisory Committee sees merit in the outsourcing of the staff counselling services and trusts that UNAMI will share its cost-benefit analysis and lessons learned with other missions for their consideration, taking into account their specific operating environment and needs.**

#### *Official travel*

24. Proposed requirements in the amount of \$1,133,000, reflecting an increase of \$360,000, or 46.6 per cent, compared with the 2022 appropriation, would provide for official travel (non-training) (\$720,400) and training-related travel (\$412,600). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposal reflects the resumption of within-mission travel for in-person meetings with national counterparts, which is considered essential and expected for efficient mandate implementation, also based on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, there is also an increase in cost for in-person training programmes, in particular for national staff. The Committee notes, from information provided to it, that the budgeting of travel to attend conferences and annual gatherings of occupational groups and networks may have not fully taken into account the provisions of [ST/SGB/2009/9](#), in particular paragraph 2.6.<sup>3</sup> Expenditure under travel of staff amounted to \$351,300 for 2021 and \$272,200 as at 30 June 2022, against the provisions of \$1,015,800 for 2021 and \$773,000 for 2022. **While acknowledging the importance of travel within the Mission area, particularly for engaging appropriately with local authorities and other stakeholders, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Mission will make greater use of virtual meetings and online training. Taking also into account the low levels of expenditure in 2021 and during the first six months of 2022, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent, or \$54,000, to the proposed increase under official travel. The Committee also emphasizes that travel should be budgeted in full accordance with the provisions of [ST/SGB/2009/9](#) and [ST/AI/2013/3](#).**

#### *Facilities and infrastructure*

25. The proposed requirements under facilities and infrastructure amount to \$6,746,400, reflecting an increase of \$3,258,200, or 93.4 per cent, mainly due to the proposed renovation and major maintenance of the premises in Kuwait. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the facility had not undergone significant maintenance for at least two decades, and needed repair to provide a safe and secure environment conducive to work. The total cost of the renovation is estimated at \$2,750,200. UNAMI included a provision of \$2,000,000 in the 2023 proposed budget, with the remaining amount (\$750,200) to be presented in the proposed budget for 2024. The Committee was further informed that, as the management of these premises falls under UNAMI, the initial contribution of the Mission was necessary given the urgency of the task. It was, however, anticipated that the other entities with staff in the compound would be required to contribute to the project, as the renovation

<sup>3</sup> [ST/SGB/2009/9](#), paragraph 2.6 reads as follows: Staff members and managers are encouraged to think of learning and development in the broadest sense, including: (a) Participation in self-study programmes, such as professional reading, e-learning, Internet and Intranet research, videos and other computer-based training programmes; (b) Group activities, such as face-to-face workshops, seminars, team projects, networking, videoconferencing, participation in communities of practice and occupational/functional networks; (c) One-to-one learning, such as cross-training provided by other colleagues, career counselling, coaching, mentoring and knowledge-sharing; (d) Experiential learning, such as on-the-job training, assignments, missions, team projects and task-based training.

progresses. The facility is at present occupied by 121 staff, comprising 83 Kuwait Joint Support Office staff and 38 non-Kuwait Joint Support Office staff (37 UNAMI staff performing procurement, aviation, field technology and other functions and 1 UNAMA staff dealing with conduct and discipline). The Committee was also informed that UNAMI had been liaising with the host country on this matter and no other extrabudgetary funding had been sought. **Pending the determination of the contribution of other missions to the costs for the renovation of the premises in Kuwait, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$325,800) to the proposed increase under facilities and infrastructure. The Committee trusts that additional information on this project will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission, including on the envisaged cost-sharing arrangements and on host-country or other extrabudgetary funding.**

*Other supplies, services and equipment*

26. The proposed requirements for other supplies, services and equipment amount to \$1,021,100, representing a decrease of \$1,001,800 compared with the appropriation for 2022. Expenditure amounted to \$682,800 for 2021 and \$301,200 as at 30 June 2022, against the provisions of \$2,078,300 for 2021 and \$2,022,900 for 2022. **Taking into account the low level of expenditures in 2021 and during the first six months of 2022, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 5 per cent, or \$51,100, to the proposed resources under other supplies, service and equipment.**

27. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 20, 22, 24, 25 and 26 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs for 2023 for UNAMI.**

## **D. Other matters**

*Cost recovery*

28. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI provides support to the United Nations country team on a cost-recovery basis for the following services:

(a) Security services, at the compounds where UNAMI accommodates the United Nations country team. The cost-recovery amounts are based on each agency's footprint at each compound in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Erbil, Basrah and Kuwait;

(b) Common services, including cleaning, sewage removal and disposal, garbage collection, utilities, maintenance, supply of bulk water, petrol, oil and lubricants for power generators at UNAMI compounds, Internet services and fire extinguisher maintenance. These costs are aggregated and charged on a per-area-occupied or accommodation-unit basis. Cost recoveries from space management services have increased over the years for the United Nations country team, while unit costs have declined, owing to efficiencies and lower contractual costs; and

(c) Other ad hoc services provided to the United Nations country team on a pay-per-use basis, including for the use of aviation assets, communications and information technology support, visa processing, medical services, fuel for motor vehicles, vehicle registrations and renewals, as well as ground transportation. Cost recoveries from these services have been steadily declining, reflective of United Nations country team entities making their own arrangements.

29. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on amounts recovered and expended for the years 2019 to 2021, as reflected in table 5.

Table 5  
**Cost recoveries, 2019–2021**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Description	Year		
	2019	2020	2021
Revenues	10 900	11 300	12 100
Expenditure	(8 800)	(8 300)	(10 000)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2 100</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>2 100</b>

30. The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will systematically include in future budget proposals disaggregated information on cost recovery, specifying the services provided to different entities and the respective amounts recovered (see also [A/76/7/Add.6](#), para. 29). The Advisory Committee makes further observations on cost recovery in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)).

#### *Gender balance*

31. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, over the past three years, UNAMI civilian personnel composition had consistently remained at 79 per cent male and 21 per cent female. Nevertheless, the representation of women in the professional categories increased, albeit marginally, in 2022 at the P-2 to P-5 levels. The Committee was also informed that, through its ongoing dialogue with troop-contributing countries, the percentage of women serving as uniformed personnel with UNAMI rose to 10 per cent. **The Advisory Committee trusts that greater efforts will be made to address the gender imbalance in UNAMI, and that updated information will be included in all future budget submissions (see also [A/76/7/Add.7](#), para. 31, [A/75/7/Add.7](#), para. 16).** The Committee further discusses gender representation in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/77/7/Add.1](#)).

#### *Geographical representation*

32. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the geographical representation of the international staff of the Mission. As at 30 June 2022, 82 staff, or 32 per cent, were from the Asia-Pacific States; 68, or 26 per cent, from the Western European and other States; 51, or 20 per cent, from the African States; 37, or 14 per cent, from the Eastern European States; and 14, or 5 per cent, from the Latin American and Caribbean States and 6, or 2 per cent, other. The Committee notes that the all positions at the Under-Secretary-General, Assistant-Secretary-General and D-2 levels were encumbered by staff from Western European and other States, and that D-1 and P-5 positions were also mainly encumbered by staff of the same States. **The Advisory Committee acknowledges the geographical distribution of UNAMI personnel, and trusts that further efforts will be made to achieve equitable geographical representation of Member States among staff in senior positions at the D-1 level and above and provide an update in all future budget submissions.** The Advisory Committee makes further comments on 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](#)).

*Mosul integrated compound*

33. Upon enquiry, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) developed a cost-sharing concept to host all the United Nations entities in Mosul, by expanding the compound which currently houses the UNAMI Mosul Office. The total cost for UNAMI is \$1,157,200, of which \$638,000 has been received as a credit for the construction works undertaken by UNAMI in its current premises, which will be integrated into the new compound. As a result, a net one-time contribution of \$519,200 will be due from UNAMI to UNHCR in 2023. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on the Mosul integrated compound project will be provided in the context of the next budget submission.**

*United Nations Integrated Compound in Baghdad*

34. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI was on schedule to complete the construction and renovation of the United Nations Integrated Compound in Baghdad, by 31 December 2022. The project is funded from voluntary contributions from the host country and other donors. As at 31 May 2022, the trust fund had allotted a cumulative amount of \$50,760,600, including interest of \$3,965,600. An amount of \$54,317,100 had been expended on various renovation projects, leaving an unspent balance of \$409,100.

---