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Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, financing arrangements for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2021/22 ^a	\$327,949,000
Expenditure for 2021/22	\$326,810,000
Unencumbered balance for 2021/22	\$1,139,000
Appropriation for 2022/23	\$259,663,200
Projected expenditure for 2022/23 ^b	\$271,815,400
Projected overexpenditure for 2022/23	\$12,152,200
Additional requirements submitted by the Secretary-General for 2022/23 ^c	\$12,152,200
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for additional requirements for 2022/23	\$8,506,500
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2023/24	\$293,589,900



Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2023/24	(\$1,737,800)
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Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2023/24	\$291,852,100
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^a Reflects approved resources of \$260,445,300 gross (\$257,078,500 net) and resources authorized under commitment authority of \$67,503,700 gross for the additional requirements related to the reconfiguration of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei until 30 June 2022.

^b Estimates as at 31 March 2023.

^c The Secretary-General submitted the request for additional requirements in his report on financing arrangements for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 ([A/77/836](#)).

I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the reports on the financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) ([A/77/603](#), [A/77/769](#) and [A/77/836](#)), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 20 April 2023. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations are contained in its report ([A/77/767](#)), and those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 can be found in its related report ([A/77/802](#)).

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

2. By its resolution [75/297](#), the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$260,445,300 gross (\$257,078,500 net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The total amount has been assessed on Member States. In a letter dated 23 March 2022, the Advisory Committee authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding \$67,503,700 gross for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, in addition to the amount already appropriated for the same period. The amount of \$67,503,700 has not been assessed on Member States. Expenditures for the period totalled \$326,810,000 gross (\$323,096,600 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 99.7 per cent, compared with the rate of 99.8 per cent for the 2020/21 period. The resulting unencumbered balance of \$1,139,000, in gross terms, represents 0.3 per cent of the overall level of resources approved for the financial period.

3. The unencumbered balance of \$1,139,000 reflects the effect of reduced requirements under military and police personnel (\$10,995,300, or 5.9 per cent); reduced requirements under civilian personnel (\$3,478,000, or 6.8 per cent); and higher-than-budgeted requirements under operational costs (\$13,334,300, or 14.9 per cent). Summary information on the redeployments (\$13,456,000, or 4.1 per cent) from groups I, military and police personnel, and II, civilian personnel, to group III, operational costs, is provided in section III.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for 2021/22 ([A/77/603](#)). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of that report.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed that the unliquidated obligations amounted to \$72,403,900 as at 30 June 2022, reflecting an increase of \$15,756,700, compared with \$56,647,200 as at 30 June 2021. The Committee discusses unliquidated obligations in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Matters pertaining to the report of the Board of Auditors

5. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNISFA, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2022 ([A/77/5 \(Vol. II\)](#)). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to UNISFA on the liquidity situation, financial position, cost, risk management, cost recovery, management of medicines and medical supplies, and long-term vacancies, (*ibid.*, chap. II, paras. 16–21, 222, and 356–359; chap. V, para. 177). **The Advisory Committee concurs with the observations and**

recommendations of the Board of Auditors and trusts that the recommendations will be implemented in a timely manner.

III. Information on performance for the current period and proposed financing arrangements

6. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 March 2023, expenditures amounted to \$222,938,900. At the end of the current financial period, the estimated total expenditure would amount to \$271,815,400, resulting in a projected overexpenditure of \$12,152,200 against approved resources in the amount of \$259,663,200. As further described below (see para. 9 below), since the finalization of the budget for UNISFA for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 ([A/76/699](#)) and the adoption of the General Assembly resolution [76/281](#), substantial changes have occurred in the cost parameters and assumptions underpinning the Force's budget for the 2022/23 period, resulting in the need for additional resource requirements for the 2022/23 period ([A/77/836](#), para. 2).

7. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as at 6 March 2023, a total of \$3,323,905,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNISFA since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to \$3,216,807,000, resulting in an outstanding balance of \$107,098,000. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that owing to inadequate cash reserves to cover the expenses of the mission, UNISFA had borrowed \$26 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in June 2022. Furthermore, as at 3 April 2023, the cash available to UNISFA amounted to \$5,923,000 (including the \$26 million borrowed from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund), which was insufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of \$43,223,000 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries). **The Advisory Committee notes the challenging cash position of the Force. The 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 (see [A/76/760/Add.7](#), para. 8; see also resolution [76/274](#)).**

8. The Advisory Committee was informed that claims for the reimbursement of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment had been settled up to September 2022, leaving outstanding balances of \$13,068,000 and \$7,900,000, respectively, as at 31 December 2022. With respect to death and disability compensation, the Committee was informed that, as at 4 April 2023, an amount of \$2,376,000 had been paid to settle 89 claims since the inception of the Force and that two claims were pending. **The Advisory Committee trusts that all outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously.**

Proposed financing arrangement for the 2022/23 period

9. The Secretary-General indicates that, since the issuance of the budget for UNISFA for the 2022/23 period ([A/76/699](#)) on 16 February 2022 and its subsequent approval in resolution [76/281](#), substantial changes in the cost parameters and assumptions have had a significant impact on the ability of the Force to implement its mandate, resulting in the need for additional resource requirements for the 2022/23 period in the amount of \$12,152,200, in addition to the amount of \$259,663,200 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Force ([A/77/836](#), paras. 2 and 10; see also para. 6 above).

10. The Secretary-General indicates that the \$12.2 million projected shortfall results from the combined effect of: (a) additional requirements estimated in the amount of

\$35.9 million, owing to changed cost parameters and assumptions, including higher rates of mission subsistence allowance, increase in the cost of travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation of military contingents, increased non-discretionary requirements for engineering, considerably higher market prices for fuel, increased contractual costs for the rental and operation of helicopters, increased freight costs, increased requirements for consultants, continued reconfiguration of the Force and increased contractual costs for rental and operations of helicopters; (b) the ability of the Force to partially absorb, within the approved resources, additional requirements amounting to \$21.6 million owing to the delayed emplacement of military contingents, non-deployment of the formed police units and higher vacancy rates for international staff; and (c) the ability of the Force to reprioritize, curtail and defer activities with an estimated cost of \$2.1 million in multiple areas, through the deferral of purchase of construction materials and engineering supplies except for those to maintain continuity in the replacement of the accommodation of contingents – without risk to the safety and security of United Nations personnel and property or a significant cut to its mandated activities ([A/77/836](#), paras. 3–5, 7).

11. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Force plans to effect redeployment of funds within and between groups of expenditures to implement the measures provided above and ease the financial challenge it is facing. Once those actions are implemented, the Force would, however, remain with a shortfall of \$12.2 million ([A/77/836](#), paras. 6–9). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, should the requested additional resources not be approved, UNISFA would be unable to effectively meet its operational needs and limit its capability to fulfil its mandate with regards to fuel, freight and air operations.

12. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the approved resources for the current period in the amount of \$260 million provide capacity to achieve greater efficiencies and further absorb part of the additional requirements, including through the prioritization of expenditures under operational costs in the categories of consultants, ground transportation, air operations and freight, also taking into account the downward trend in fuel prices and delayed deployment of troops, as well as the potential further cancellation of prior-period obligations. Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction of 30 per cent (or \$3,645,700) to the proposed additional requirements for UNISFA for the 2022/23 period (see para. 53).** The Advisory Committee discusses matters concerning petrol, oil and lubricants in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

13. The mandate of the Force was established by the Security Council in its resolution [1990 \(2011\)](#) and was most recently extended until 15 November 2023 in resolution [2660 \(2022\)](#). The overarching political objective of UNISFA is to enable conditions that are conducive to political dialogue between the parties leading to an agreement to resolve the final status of Abyei and border issues between the Sudan and South Sudan through the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism activities ([A/77/769](#), paras. 1 and 2). The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of the Force for the 2023/24 period are summarized in section I.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for the Force (*ibid.*).

14. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the key aspects of the mandate of UNISFA have remained unchanged, following the Force's reconfiguration from a single-nation contingent to a multinational force, although the reconfiguration had an impact on mandate implementation. UNISFA will continue to focus on the five strategic priorities as set out by Security Council resolution 2609 (2021) as follows: (a) continued physical protection of civilians and facilitating humanitarian assistance; (b) continued support to the political process between the Sudan and South Sudan; (c) continued focus on local level mediation to address intercommunal conflict; (d) peacebuilding activities to address the root causes of conflict, including through the Abyei joint programme of the United Nations country teams of the Sudan and South Sudan; and (e) promotion of accountability, access to justice and support to the rule of law (*ibid.*, paras. 7–18).

B. Resource requirements

15. The proposed budget in the amount of \$293,589,900 for the 2023/24 period represents an increase of \$33,926,700 or 13.1 per cent, compared with the provision of \$259,663,200 approved for the 2022/23 period (see table below).

Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment (2021/22)	Expenditure (2021/22)	Apportionment (2022/23)	Expenditure as at 31 March 2023	Cost estimates (2023/24)	Variance	
						Amount	Percentage
Military and police personnel	186 831.3	175 836.0	117 385.3	97 959.7	124 941.7	7 556.4	6.4
Civilian personnel	51 380.7	47 902.7	51 253.1	36 796.6	52 631.7	1 378.6	2.7
Operational costs	89 737.0	103 071.3	91 024.8	88 182.6	116 016.5	24 991.7	27.5
Total requirements	327 949.0	326 810.0	259 663.2	222 938.9	293 589.9	33 926.7	13.1

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/77/769).

16. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the budget proposal for the 2023/24 period assumes that the reconfiguration of UNISFA will be completed by the beginning of the 2023/24 period, except for the replacement of the camp infrastructure, for which the related requirements comprise \$5 million and are reflected in the proposed budget for the 2023/24 period.

1. Military and police personnel

Category	Authorized 2021/22 ^a	Actual as at 30 June 2022	Authorized 2022/23 ^a	Actual as at as 31 March 2023	Proposed 2023/24	Variance
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
Military observers	168	124	130	114	135	5
Military contingent personnel	3 382	3 160	3 120	2 933	3 115	(5)
United Nations police	148	47	148	43	148	–
Formed police unit personnel	492	–	492	–	492	–

^a Represents the highest level of authorized strength.

17. The proposed resources for military and police personnel amount to \$124,941,700, reflecting an increase of \$7,556,400 or 6.4 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$117,385,300 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are primarily attributable to: (a) higher costs for mission subsistence allowance for military observers and military staff officers based on the revised rates for the after-30-days category, effective 1 January 2023; (b) lower vacancy rate of 10.8 per cent for military observers, compared with the rate of 14.6 per cent applied in the approved budget for the 2022/23 period; (c) planned deployment of five additional military observers, with a subsequent decrease in the number of military officers; (d) higher costs for contingent-owned major equipment; and (e) travel on the emplacement, repatriation and rotation owing to the higher actual rate per hour for long-term chartered flights. The increased requirements were offset in part by the reduced requirements attributable primarily to the lower costs for military contingents' food rations owing to the lower cost of land delivery services of rations of food ([A/77/769](#), paras. 98–100).

18. The table below provides a summary of the delayed deployment factors for military and police personnel for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 periods, as well as those projected for the 2023/24 period.

Delayed deployment factors

(Percentage of approved strength)

Category	Budgeted 2021/22	Actual 2021/22	Budgeted 2022/23	Actual as at 31 March 2023	Actual average as at 31 March 2023	Projected 2023/24
Military and police personnel						
Military observers	25.0	26.2	14.6	12.3	12.3	10.8
Military contingents	3.0	6.6	1.5	6.0	16.8	2.3
United Nations police	25.0	68.2	33.8	70.9	68.2	47.3
Formed police units	91.6	100.0	91.6	100.0	100.0	91.6

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, despite the authorized strength of 640 police officers, comprising 148 individual United Nations police officers and three formed police units with an authorized strength of 492, the additional individual police officers required to reach the maximum authorized strength have not been deployed. **The Advisory Committee recalls its concern about the high vacancy rates of UNISFA police personnel (see also [A/76/760/Add.8](#), para. 19). The Committee trusts that updated information on the deployment of the formed police units will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

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

2. Civilian personnel

Category	Approved 2021/22	Encumbered as at 30 June 2022	Approved 2022/23	Encumbered as at 31 March 2023	Proposed 2023/24	Variance
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
Posts						
International staff	174	154	183	164	193	10
National Professional Officers	7	6	10	7	10	–
National General Service staff	83	79	83	77	85	2
Temporary positions						
International staff	2	1	3	3	4	1
National staff	–	–	–	–	–	–
United Nations Volunteers						
International United Nations Volunteers	36	34	37	32	38	1
National United Nations Volunteers	–	–	–	–	–	–
Government-provided personnel	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	302	274	316	283	330	14

21. The proposed resources for civilian personnel amount to \$52,631,700, reflecting an increase of \$1,378,600, or 2.7 per cent, as compared with the apportionment of \$51,253,100 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are primarily attributable to: (a) the proposed establishment of 10 international staff posts (see para. 24 below); (b) the proposed establishment of one general temporary assistance position; and (c) the assumption of full incumbency for three continuing general temporary assistance positions, compared with 10 per cent applied in 2022/23. The increased requirements are offset in part by: (a) the application of a 12.3 per cent vacancy rate for continuing positions for international staff, compared with the 10 per cent applied in 2022/23; (b) the application of a 33.3 per cent vacancy rate for national professional staff, compared with the 0 per cent applied in 2022/23; and (c) the discontinuation of the allocated costs for the general temporary assistance related to activities for the Umoja supply chain implementation support project ([A/77/769](#), paras. 101–103).

Comments and recommendations on post resources

22. A total of 330 civilian posts and positions are proposed for the 2023/24 period, compared with the approved 316 posts and positions for 2022/23, representing a net increase of 14 posts and positions, reflecting 14 establishments. Detailed information with respect to the staffing proposals, including the proposed changes reflected in the following paragraphs, are provided in section I.E of the report of the Secretary-General ([A/77/769](#)).

Civilian staffing review

23. In his report the Secretary-General indicates that the proposed establishment of 14 additional posts and positions was determined based on the civilian staffing review undertaken by UNISFA, in consultation with the Department of Operational Support and in accordance with General Assembly resolution [76/274](#) on cross-cutting issues relating to the financing of peacekeeping operations. The resources requested would be used for the first year of a phased implementation of the recommendations of the review, with priority given to areas where there is an urgent requirement for strengthening the Force in line with the mandate and recent changes to become a

multinational force (ibid, para. 28). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNISFA reviewed scalability in proposing requests for civilian personnel posts and positions in its support component, considering the increase in the proposed level of other components, including requirements under military and police personnel and operational costs. **The Advisory Committee expects that, as requested by the General Assembly, the staffing review at UNISFA will reflect efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of its mandate through the adaptation and optimization of its structures, taking also into account the number of vacant posts and positions. The Committee trusts that such efficiencies will be reported in the next budget submission.** The Committee further discusses civilian staffing reviews in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/77/767).

Establishment

24. It is proposed to establish a total of 14 posts and positions, comprising 12 posts (1 P-4, 5 P-3, 1 P-2, 3 Field Service and 2 national General Service), 1 general temporary assistance (P-5) position and 1 international United Nations Volunteer position, as follows: 1 post of Rule of Law Officer (P-4); 1 post of Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-3); 1 post of Community Liaison Officer (P-3); 1 post of Rations Officer (P-3); 1 post of Centralized Warehousing Officer (P-3); 1 post of Movement Control Officer (P-3); 1 post of Associate Data Analyst (P-2); 1 post of Security Officer (Field Service); 1 post of Security Officer (Investigations) (Field Service); 1 post of Information Management Assistant (Field Service); 1 post of Air Operations Assistant (national General Service); 1 post of Fire Safety Assistant (national General Service); 1 general temporary assistance position of Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5); and 1 position of Logistics Officer (international United Nations Volunteer) (A/77/769, paras. 38–73). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that all of the requested posts and positions for the 2023/24 period are directly linked to the reconfiguration, either as a result of: (a) the need for renewed accommodation for troops and other infrastructure and the minimal upgrade of existing structures; (b) the introduction of new functions related to the revised mandate; or (c) the need to improve support in existing areas that are expected to become key requirements owing to the reconfiguration. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the proposed staffing changes (see annex).

25. Regarding the Rule of Law Officer (P-4) post in the Office of the Chief of Staff, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed post would fulfil the mandate requirement to establish a rule of law support strategy and to oversee the implementation of rule of law programmes in collaboration with government and non-government actors, as well as agencies, funds and programmes and civil society. The Committee was also informed that UNISFA currently has no civilian rule of law capacity and has not initiated the development of a rule of law programme for UNISFA and the delivery of related projects. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that UNISFA could seek greater collaboration to leverage the resources available within the Force, such as in the Office of the Police Commissioner, through standing capacity from the United Nations Logistics Base, backstopping resources funded through the support account, as well as the United Nations entities in the Abyei Area, to start developing the rule of law programme for UNISFA. The Committee therefore recommends against the proposed establishment of one Rule of Law Officer (P-4) post at this time.**

26. Regarding the Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-3) post in the Conduct and Discipline Section, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed post would address staffing shortfalls and an expected increase in the

workload of the Section, including as a result of the multinational troops in an increased number of locations. The Committee was also informed that the required functions are currently performed with the temporary support of a military officer. The Committee notes that the Conduct and Discipline Section already has existing capacity comprised of two posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that that UNISFA should seek greater opportunities to leverage the resources available within the Force, such as in the Office of the Force Commander and other United Nations offices and entities in the Abyei Area, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services, with respect to conduct and discipline, also with a view to promoting training and prevention. Taking also into account that the increased workload was not justified at this time, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-3) post.**

27. Regarding the Community Liaison Officer (P-3) post in the Community Liaison Office, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed post would assist the Community Liaison Office in the implementation of activities related to strengthening early warning mechanisms for human rights abuses and foster community engagement to support the operationalization of UNISFA human rights mandate. The Committee was also informed that the additional human rights reporting requirements are currently covered on an ad hoc basis by other staff members of the Community Liaison Office. The Committee notes that the Community Liaison Office has a staffing capacity of 12 posts (1 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 national Professional Officer and 3 national General Staff). **Considering existing resources and the current arrangements in place, the Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of one Community Liaison Officer (P-3) post at this time. Any required ad hoc support and expertise may be requested from regional missions and/or entities, such as Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, if necessary.**

28. A Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5) general temporary assistance position in the Office of the Chief of Mission Support is proposed for a two-year period and would oversee the planning and management of the multi-year camp improvement plan and implementation of the Smart Camp concept, that require significant coordination between multiple units and service pillars in disparate functional areas (A/77/769, paras. 55 and 56; see also para. 48 below). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the position would be responsible for leading the project, coordinating between military, police, substantive and support service pillars, and managing material and financial resources associated with the project, among others. The Committee was also informed that the Engineering Unit of UNISFA has existing staffing capacity of 38 posts and positions (2 P-4, 3 P-3, 12 Field Service, 1 National Professional Officers, 15 national General Service and 5 United Nations Volunteers). **While the Advisory Committee sees merit in temporary additional capacity for the initial coordination of the camp improvement plan and implementation of the Smart Camp concept, it is also of the view that project implementation should be subsequently managed by existing resources within the Force. The Committee therefore recommends approval of the proposed establishment of one Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5) position for a period of one year only, to be funded under general temporary assistance.**

29. Regarding the Air Operations Assistant (national General Service) in the Aviation Unit of the Service Delivery Services Section, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed post would provide additional support in Wau, given the increased number of flights through Wau owing to troop movements and rotations and the introduction of night-time medical evacuation and casualty

evacuation operations. The Committee was also informed that UNISFA and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) operate at the same airport in Wau and UNISFA is able to utilize facilities and other services provided by UNMISS on a cost-recovery basis. The Committee notes that the Aviation Unit of UNISFA has a staffing capacity of 22 posts and positions (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 11 Field Service, 2 National Professional Officers, 4 national General Service and 3 United Nations Volunteers). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the proposed responsibilities can continue to be undertaken through existing resources of UNISFA, with the support of UNMISS on a cost-recovery basis, as well as from the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda. The Advisory Committee recommends, therefore, against the proposed establishment of one Air Operations Assistant (national General Service) post.**

30. Regarding the Security Officer (Investigations) (Field Service) in the Safety and Security Section, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed post would provide UNISFA with the resources required to monitor and investigate incidents in field sites, as well as gather intelligence to ensure the safety of personnel, assets and property of both UNISFA and agencies, funds and programmes. The Committee was also informed that the expansion of programmatic activities and collaboration with agencies, funds and programmes on projects in the field has increased the visibility of UNISFA assets in deep field sites, resulting in increased incidences of malicious acts, liabilities and incidents requiring security investigations. **The Advisory Committee considers that greater efficiencies, synergies and a holistic approach to overall security matters can be achieved through intensified collaboration and cost-sharing arrangements with other United Nations entities in the Abyei Area, as well as support from the Department of Safety and Security. Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of one Security Officer (Investigations) (Field Service) post at this time.**

31. Regarding the Information Management Assistant (Field Service) post in the Field Technology Services of the Operations and Resource Management Section, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the post is proposed to establish a mission-wide digital records management system to ensure mission-critical documents are digitized and properly classified; as well as to provide information systems and information management support to programmatic and police activities which are expected to expand during the 2023/24 budget period. The Committee notes that Field Technology Services has a staffing capacity of 22 posts and positions (1 P-4, 3 P-3, 8 Field Service, 4 national General Service and 6 United Nations Volunteers). **Taking into account the existing capacity of the Force's Field Technology Services, the Advisory Committee is of the view that more synergy should be explored within such resources and therefore recommends against the proposed establishment of one Information Management Assistant (Field Service) post.**

Vacancy rates

32. In his report on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Secretary-General indicates that the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget provided policy guidance to improve the accuracy and consistency of the vacancy factors applied in the proposed budgets for the 2023/24 period and to ensure that proposed vacancy rates were based, as much as possible, on actual rates ([A/77/779](#), para. 254). The table below provides a summary of the vacancy rates for civilian personnel for UNISFA during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 periods, as well as those proposed for the 2023/24 period.

Vacancy rates

(Percentage)

Category	Budgeted 2021/22	Actual 2021/22	Budgeted 2022/23	Average Jan.– Dec. 2022	Actual as at 31 March 2023	Actual average 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023	Proposed 2023/24 ^a
Civilian personnel							
International staff	10.0	10.9	10.0	12.3	10.4	13.1	12.3
National staff							
National Professional Officers	0.0	28.6	0.0	33.3	30.0	40.0	33.3
National General Service staff	10.0	6.0	10.0	4.8	7.2	3.6	1.2
International United Nations Volunteers	3.0	2.8	3.0	8.1	13.5	10.8	8.1
National United Nations Volunteers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Temporary positions							
International staff	10.0	50.0	10.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
National staff	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Government-provided personnel	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

^a The assumptions considered for the vacancy factors include the current 12-month average vacancy rate, from January to December 2022 or the actual vacancy rate as at 31 December 2022, as well as the projected planned deployment of uniformed personnel (A/77/769, para. 77).

33. The Advisory Committee notes that the vacancy rates proposed for 2023/24 are the same as the actual average vacancy rate experienced during the period from January to December 2022, for all categories, with the exception of national General Service and temporary international staff positions. The proposed rates, however, differ from the actual and average vacancy rates experienced during the current 2022/23 period, as at 31 March 2023, for all categories, with the exception of international temporary positions. **The Advisory Committee acknowledges the policy guidance provided to improve the accuracy and consistency of the vacancy factors applied in the proposed budgets for the 2023/24 period. The Committee notes the efforts of the Force to ensure that the proposed vacancy rates are based, as much as possible, on actual rates. Where the proposed rates differ from the actual rates, updated information should be provided to the General Assembly at the time of the consideration of the present report and clear justification should be systematically presented in future proposed budget and related documents, including realistic projected recruitment and potential upcoming vacancies, to the extent possible.** The Committee discusses vacancy rates in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/77/767).

Vacant posts

34. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 March 2023, a total of 28 posts and positions were vacant (2 D-2, 5 P-4, 5 P-3, 7 Field Service, 3 National Professional Officers and 6 national General Service). Of these, three posts had been vacant for more than two years (1 D-2 and 2 P-3) in the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission. The Committee recalls that the longstanding vacant posts of Special Assistant (P-3) and Political Affairs Officer (P-3) were dependent on the recruitment of the Deputy Head of Mission (D-2), which was established on 1 July 2021 (see A/76/760/Add.8, para. 31). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the recruitment of the Deputy Head of Mission (D-2) post was still pending and was currently under discussion with the Government of the Sudan. **The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has reiterated its concern about**

the high number of vacancies in civilian staffing and its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts are filled expeditiously (resolution 76/274, para. 33). In the same resolution, the Assembly has further requested the Secretary-General to review the posts that have been vacant for 24 months or longer and to propose in his next budget submission either their retention, with clear justification of need, or their abolishment. The Committee trusts that the Force will continue its efforts regarding the recruitment of the Deputy Head of Mission and that an update on the recruitment status of all vacant posts will be provided to the Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission (see also A/76/760/Add.8, para. 32).

35. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 25 to 31 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for civilian personnel. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.

3. Operational costs

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment (2021/22)	Expenditure (2021/22)	Apportionment (2022/23)	Expenditure as at 31 March 2023	Cost estimates (2023/24)	Variance	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Amount (6)=(5)-(3)	Percentage (7)=(6)÷(3)
Operational costs							
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Consultants and consulting services	607.7	1 365.8	615.0	1 316.3	909.6	294.6	47.9
Official travel	1 180.0	1 105.0	526.1	730.2	707.4	181.3	34.5
Facilities and infrastructure	34 443.8	35 008.1	32 469.0	29 840.3	39 410.0	6 941.0	21.4
Ground transportation	2 156.0	3 434.9	1 958.5	1 793.9	4 310.0	2 351.5	120.1
Air operations	23 977.7	25 366.9	25 411.6	22 134.7	37 521.9	12 110.3	47.7
Marine operations	597.5	1 048.7	494.4	639.8	523.7	29.3	5.9
Communications and information technology	9 098.7	9 529.0	9 324.3	9 446.2	9 754.9	430.6	4.6
Medical	452.6	741.7	692.2	643.9	692.1	(0.1)	(0.0)
Special equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other supplies, services and equipment	16 723.0	24 971.2	19 033.7	21 378.8	21 436.9	2 403.2	12.6
Quick-impact projects	500.0	500.0	500.0	258.6	750.0	250.0	50.0
Total	89 737.0	103 071.3	91 024.8	88 182.6	116 016.5	24 991.7	27.5

36. The proposed resources for operational costs amount to \$116,016,500 reflect an increase of \$24,991,700, or 27.5 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$91,024,800 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to: (a) higher costs for the rental and operation of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, owing mainly to the deployment of an additional helicopter and the resulting higher number of flight hours, as well as the higher cost reflected in the new contracts for three aircraft based on market prices and the higher number of flight hours based on operational requirements; (b) continuation of construction projects for United Nations personnel and improvement of accommodation for troops; (c) acquisition of six all-terrain utility trucks; (d) increased cost of freight for acquisitions; and (e) increased fuel prices per litre compared with 2022/23 prices (see A/77/769, paras. 104–112).

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

Consultants and consulting services

37. The proposed resources for consultants and consulting services amount to \$909,600, reflecting an increase of \$294,600, or 47.9 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$615,000 for 2022/23. The increased requirements were primarily attributable to the requirement for one additional consultant who has specialized technical expertise in electro-mechanical engineering not available in the Engineering Unit, whose tasks will include preparing statements of work and assisting with various construction projects within the Force. The Committee notes that the Engineering Unit at UNISFA currently has 38 posts and positions (2 P-4, 3 P-3, 12 Field Service, 1 National Professional Officer, 15 national General Service and 5 United Nations Volunteers) and has also engaged seven consultants for specialized fields for which a provision has been included in the 2023/24 period (see para. 28 above). **The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has reiterated that the use of external consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and that the Organization should utilize its in-house capacity to perform core activities or to fulfil functions that are recurrent over the long term (resolution 76/274, para. 46). Taking into account the staffing capacity within the Force, the Committee recommends a reduction of 20 per cent (\$181,900) to the proposed resources under consultants and consulting services.**

Official travel

38. The proposed resources amount to \$707,400, reflecting an increase of \$181,300, or 34.5 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$526,100 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to the resumption of official travel after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The proposal includes resources in the amount of \$198,300 for travel for training. **Taking into account that lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic should be further applied to make greater use of virtual meetings and online training tools, the Advisory Committee considers that further efficiencies can be achieved and recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$70,700) to the proposed resources under official travel.**

Petrol, oil and lubricants

39. A total provision of \$19,097,000 is proposed for 2023/24 for fuel, oil and lubricants, reflecting an increase of \$6,347,000, or 49.8 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$12,750,100 for 2022/23. The increase is attributable mainly to higher fuel prices (\$5,196,600); an increase in the volume of fuel (\$4,311); and an increase in other costs (\$711,315), attributable mainly to an increase in oil and lubricants and mobilization fees, offset in part by a decrease in operations and maintenance. The total amount is budgeted across three budget classes, with the net increases reflected under facilities and infrastructure (\$4,402,300 or 49.7 per cent), ground transportation (\$695,600 or 105.8 per cent) and air operations (\$1,249,000 or 38.5 per cent). The increases in fuel prices for 2023/24, compared with those for 2022/23, are as follows: (a) \$1.074 per litre of diesel, compared with \$0.680 per litre; (b) \$0.927 per litre of petrol, compared with \$0.560 per litre; and (c) \$1.034 per litre of aviation fuel, compared with \$0.670 per litre. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNISFA tracks fuel consumption at the individual component level through the electronic fuel management system; in addition, with the field remote infrastructure monitoring system component of the Smart Camps, UNISFA will have advanced capabilities to track the consumption of fuel for generators. The Committee was also informed that UNISFA had a turnkey service contract for the provision of oil and lubricants products and that the contractor was responsible for operating and maintaining the operational stock, local reserves and strategic fuel reserves in accordance with the minimum quantities established in the

contract. The Committee discusses fuel costs and management in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Facilities and infrastructure

40. The proposed resources amount to \$39,410,000, reflecting an increase of \$6,941,000, or 21.4 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$32,469,000 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to: (a) higher projected volume and price of generator fuel of 1.2 million litres and (b) the resumption of multi-year construction projects that had been temporarily postponed owing to the reprioritization of resources during the reconfiguration of UNISFA to a multinational force. The increased requirements are offset in part by reduced requirements for spare parts of air conditioning units and prefabricated accommodations ([A/77/769](#), para. 106). The requirements include a provision of \$7,030,100 for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance, compared with the approved amount of \$5,360,000 for the 2022/23 period, reflecting an increase of \$1,670,100 or 30.6 per cent. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information regarding the construction projects planned for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 periods. The information showed that for the 2021/22 period, 16 projects were planned and 4 have commenced, out of which 2 have been completed and 1 is anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2023. The approved budget for the same performance period was \$3,964,100 and the expenditure to date is \$1,969,300. For the current 2022/23 period, 16 projects are planned and 5 have commenced, of which none has been completed and 1 is anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2023. The approved budget for the same period was \$5,360,000 and the expenditure to date is \$4,932,800. For the 2023/24 period, 16 projects are planned, at a proposed budget of \$7,030,100. **Taking into consideration the postponement of several construction projects, and the related level of expenditures, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent (\$703,000) to the proposed provision for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance (\$7,030,100). The Committee also trusts that the Secretary-General will provide an update on the status of construction projects to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission.**

Air operations

41. The proposed resources amount to \$37,521,900, reflecting an increase of \$12,110,300, or 47.7 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$25,411,600 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to: (a) the deployment of an additional helicopter; (b) the consequently higher number of flight hours (4,844, compared with 4,145 for 2022/23); (c) the higher projected price per litre of aviation fuel (\$1.034, compared with \$0.670 for 2022/23); (d) the higher cost reflected in new contracts for three fixed-wing aircraft, based on market prices, and the resulting higher number of 2,326 flight hours compared with 1,944 flight hours in 2022/23 ([A/77/769](#), para. 108). A provision of \$22,661,100 under rental and operation of helicopters, reflects an increase of 8,353,000 attributed primarily to the deployment of an additional helicopter and higher number of flight hours. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the contract of two military helicopters will end in May 2023, and they will be replaced by three civilian helicopters with less airlift capacity, and will thus have to fly more flight hours per helicopter to meet the same requirements as the military helicopters. As regards the rental and operation of fixed-wing aircraft, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increased requirements of \$883,200, or 12.7 per cent, is attributable to the higher cost reflected in the new contracts for the three aircraft, based on market prices and the higher number of flight hours. The Committee further discusses air operations in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Communications and information technology

42. The proposed resources amount to \$9,754,900, reflecting an increase of \$430,600 or 4.6 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$9,324,300 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to the maintenance of information and communications technology equipment and services. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information, which showed, under spare parts, an expenditure of \$224,100 against an apportionment of \$435,200 as at 31 March 2023 for the current period and an expenditure of \$390,000 against an apportionment of \$444,800 for the 2021/22 period. **The Advisory Committee considers that the mission has previously expended significant resources on internal communications (see A/76/760/Add.8, para. 35) and that efforts should continue to be made to use resources efficiently. Taking into account the level of expenditure and need to identify greater efficiencies, the Committee recommends a reduction of 20 per cent (\$86,100) to the proposed increase of \$430,600 for communication and information technology.**

Mine detection and mine-clearing services

43. The proposed requirements for mine detection and mine-clearing services include international and national staff (\$2,199,683), official travel (\$53,884), one third-party clearance contract to reduce the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war in the Abyei Area and the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (\$6,696,670), mine action specialized equipment (\$48,000) and operating expenses (\$69,833). The balance amounting to \$773,463 represents project support and management fees for the Mine Action Service implementing partner, United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS). Although estimated to be low in density, mines are laid in an unconventional manner, resulting in disproportionately large areas of ground having to be cleared to locate these devices. The Mine Action Service will provide the most viable solutions for ground patrols of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism, including in areas where there is a need to expand current patrol routes or create additional team sites; as well as risk education to UNISFA peacekeepers and local populations to promote safe behaviours, reducing thus the threat of explosive ordnance (A/77/769, paras. 84–89). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed resources for the 2023/24 period provided for a total of 14 personnel, headed by a Chief of Operations/Head of Project Unit (P-4) with the support of seven personnel based in Abyei, one personnel based in Kadugli and five personnel based in Entebbe. The Committee discusses matters pertaining to demining activities in its reports on the summary of the findings and recommendations of the independent Review of the delivery model of the United Nations Mine Action Service (A/77/816).

Quick-impact projects

44. The proposed resources amount to \$750,000, reflecting an increase of \$250,000, or 50.0 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$500,000 for 2022/23. The increased requirements are attributable primarily to the proposed expansion of the quick-impact projects programme, to support the increased number of troop-contributing countries in the reconfigured, multinational UNISFA, and to enhance efforts by the multinational Force to support communities and gain their confidence through the quick-impact projects programme (A/77/769, para. 112). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a higher projected volume of proposed projects is anticipated for the quick-impact projects programme from the local administration and communities, as well as from a growing population and special needs of internally displaced people. The proposed quick-impact projects will comprise approximately 30 projects in several areas, including health, livelihood, traditional justice and rule of law, community and social development, gender and

education. The Committee further discusses quick-impact projects in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

45. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 35, 37, 38, 40 and 42 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.

V. Other matters

Partnerships, cooperation and coordination

46. The Secretary-General provides information on the cooperation of the Force with regional partners and coordination with United Nations entities in paragraphs 51 to 54 of his budget performance report for the 2021/22 period ([A/77/603](#)) and paragraphs 33 to 34 of his budget report for the 2023/24 period ([A/77/769](#)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information, including the following:

(a) The Force is mandated to collaborate with United Nations country teams in the Sudan and South Sudan, in consultation with the host governments and local communities, to engage local communities on peacebuilding initiatives, including conflict prevention and mitigation and rule of law, including the establishment of integrated rule of law support strategy in close coordination with the host governments and communities for peace consolidation – which will continue to be strengthened through the Abyei joint programme of the United Nations country teams in the Sudan and South Sudan;

(b) For the 2023/24 period, resources amounting to \$2 million out of a total of \$2.5 million proposed for programmatic funds are for the Abyei joint programme (see para. 50 below), of which \$1 million will be implemented by the Khartoum-based United Nations country team deploying to northern Abyei, and \$1 million by the Juba-based United Nations country team deploying to central Abyei. Most of these implementing entities, especially the International Organization of Migration, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, have additional complementary activities of their own, in addition to the activities under joint programming, with the Abyei joint programme activities, however, focusing primarily on locations where the two ethnicities coexist and where the activities can help address the underlying causes of conflict;

(c) UNISFA receives support from UNMISS including, inter alia, logistics, security, dedicated passenger flights from Entebbe, Uganda, to Wau through Juba and support to the UNISFA liaison office in Juba, as needed (see also [A/77/767/Add.11](#), para. 41 (b)).

Cost recovery

47. As regards cost recovery, the Advisory Committee was informed that for the 2021/22 period, UNISFA collected \$2,445,900, in addition to \$22,500 non-spendable negative revenue representing a prior-year adjustment. During the same period, UNISFA spent \$1,642,500 remaining with a balance of \$790,900. The Committee discusses the matter further in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Smart Camp

48. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that UNISFA is the pilot mission for the roll-out of Smart Camps across all peacekeeping missions, and the Force will continue the transformation of all team site camps into Smart Camps, with the support

of United Nations Headquarters and the Global Service Centre ([A/77/769](#), paras. 55 and 56). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Smart Camp concept aims to increase the sustainability and operability of United Nations bases using Smart City technology that provides intelligent reactive and proactive tools, in order to facilitate real-time processing and automatic responses to events and situations. The Committee was also informed that Dokura (Sector Centre Headquarters) was the first Smart Camp implemented in UNISFA. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide an update in the next report, on any efficiencies gained from the implementation of the Smart Camp pilot, considering that it is a new initiative envisaged to be rolled out across all peacekeeping missions.**

Efficiency gains and environmental initiatives

49. It is indicated in the budget proposal that UNISFA anticipates gains from efficiency initiatives in the categories of facilities and infrastructure and communications and information technology amounting to \$149,000. Under facilities and infrastructure, the construction of photovoltaic solar farms with 200 kilovoltage peak installed capacity in Highway, Todach, Noong and Banton, would reduce fuel consumption in the amount of \$49,100. Under communications and information technology, initiatives comprising of the implementation of Unite Field Remote Infrastructure Monitoring programme, deployment of the Smart Camp pilot and the expansion of data communication technology are anticipated to result in efficiency gains amounting to \$99,900 ([A/77/769](#), para. 75). As regards reduction of the environmental footprint, it is indicated that initiatives such as the solar energy capture, utilization of data provided by Smart Camp sensors and meters to improve power generation efficiency, as well as the planned construction of waste management yards in all Smart Camps, a conventional wastewater treatment plant in Abyei and Kadugli, a plastic recycling plant and solar farms at Diffra, Kadugli and Marial Achak will contribute towards further reduction of the Force's environmental footprint ([A/77/769](#), paras. 23 and 24; table 6). **The Advisory Committee notes the efforts of the Force to improve its environmental footprint and trusts that detailed information on the implementation of energy efficiency projects, including the impact on fuel consumption, estimated costs and efficiency gains, will continue to be provided in future budget proposals.** The Committee further discusses environmental activities in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Programmatic activities

50. An amount of \$2,500,000 is proposed for the implementation of programmatic activities to build on the achievements and lessons learned from the 2022/23 period, in particular with regard to the Abyei Joint Programme involving the joint implementation of programmes amounting to \$2 million, with the Resident Coordinators of the Sudan and South Sudan and aimed toward the promotion of spaces for conflict prevention and reduced vulnerability in Abyei (see para. 46 above). In addition, \$500,000 is proposed to be allocated to the respective sections of UNISFA for various interventions, such as establishing and implementing the early warning system, supporting political processes focused on resolving the final status and border issues, including in the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism area ([A/77/769](#), para. 92). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that resource requirements for programmatic activities are higher than quick-impact projects as the latter strictly relates to infrastructure projects in Abyei, whereas programmatic activities are projects that cut across the areas of essential health services, livelihood skills development, the rule of law, conflict resolution and water management, thereby addressing the root causes of conflict in remote underserved

areas along the migration route where both the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka coexist. The Committee discusses programmatic activities in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Gender balance

51. Information provided to the Advisory Committee, upon enquiry, shows that the percentage of female staff within the Force, as at 31 March 2023, was as follows: 23 per cent at the P-5 level and above; 25 per cent at the P-1 to P-4 levels; 26 per cent in the Field Service category; 10 per cent of the national General Service staff; and 38 per cent of the international United Nations Volunteers. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that UNISFA provides dedicated female accommodations for civilians and individual uniformed personnel in various camps, along with attached ablutions or ablutions within their compounds and other amenities, and that all camp reconstruction projects in support of the reconfiguration have dedicated accommodation areas for females. In addition, UNISFA, is currently constructing new accommodations, including facilities for the Dokura Camp, that were developed as part of the pilot project of the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations for female troop-contributing country personnel and they will be replicated in all company operated bases. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Force will continue its efforts to improve gender representation.** The Committee discusses gender balance further in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

Percentage breakdown between male and female civilian personnel in UNISFA (as at 31 March 2023)

(Percentage)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Female (%)</i>	<i>Male (%)</i>
International staff		
P-5 and above	23	77
P-1 to P4	25	75
Field Service	26	74
National staff		
National Professional Officers	–	100
National General Service	10	90
United Nations Volunteers		
International United Nations Volunteers	38	62
National United Nations Volunteers	–	–
International general temporary assistance	–	100
Government-provided personnel	–	–

VI. Conclusion

52. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with respect to the financing of UNISFA for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 are indicated in section VI of the performance report ([A/77/603](#)). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Appropriate an additional amount of \$66,364,700 to the special account for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, representing additional resources authorized**

under the commitment authority which were utilized and not assessed in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2022;

(b) Taking into account the amount of \$260,445,300 already assessed on Member States under the terms of its resolution [75/297](#), apply other revenue in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2022 in the total amount of \$4,095,600 from investment revenue (\$139,500), other/miscellaneous revenue (\$893,200) and cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$3,062,900) against the shortfall in assessment for the same period;

(c) Assess the additional amount of \$62,269,100, representing the difference between the increase in appropriation (\$66,364,700) and other revenue (\$4,095,600) for the period ended 30 June 2022.

53. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with regard to the financing arrangements of the Force for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 are included in paragraph 10 of the related report of the Secretary-General ([A/77/836](#)). Taking into account its recommendation in paragraph 12 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources in the amount of \$12,152,200, in addition to the already appropriated resources amounting to \$259,663,200 for the maintenance of UNISFA for the 12-month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 under the terms of General Assembly resolution [76/281](#), be reduced by 30 per cent (or \$3,645,700). Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Assembly appropriate the additional amount of \$8, 506,500 for the maintenance of the Force for the 12-month period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, to be assessed to Member States.

54. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with respect to the financing of the Force for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget ([A/77/769](#)). Taking into account its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$1,737,800 from \$293,589,900 to \$291,852,100. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$291,852,100 for the maintenance of the Force for the 12-month period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Annex

Proposed staffing changes for the 2023/24 period

<i>Component/Office/Section/Unit</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Planned duties to be performed by new post/position</i>
Office of the Chief of Staff	Rule of Law Officer (P-4)	The Rule of Law Officer (P-4) would fulfil the new mandate requirement to establish a rule of law support strategy and to oversee the implementation of rule of law programmes in collaboration with government and non-government actors, as well as agencies, funds and programmes and civil society. The establishment of the position was recommended in the report by the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations in its review of the rule of law capacity and requirements of UNISFA.
	Associate Data Analyst (P-2)	The Associate Data Analyst (P-2) would be responsible for establishment of a coordinated data management infrastructure for UNISFA, providing mission-critical data to substantive components, troops and police personnel.
Conduct and Discipline Section	Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-3)	The Conduct and Discipline Officer (P-3) would address staffing shortfalls, as well as an expected increase in workload of the Section resulting from the multinational troops in an increased number of locations, and the increased referral of cases from the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the mission level for case management and investigation.
Safety and Security Section	Security Officer (Field Service)	<p>The ongoing civilian staffing review of UNISFA identified a critical shortfall in the Safety and Security Section in the area of fire safety and investigations.</p> <p>Establishment of the Security Officer (Field Service) would address the current situation whereby UNISFA relies on host country support in Kadugli in the area of fire safety, which is unreliable and leaves UNISFA assets, contingent-owned equipment and personnel at significant risk.</p>
	Security Officer (Investigations) (Field Service)	The ongoing civilian staffing review of UNISFA identified a critical shortfall in the Safety and Security Section in the area of investigations. Expansion of programmatic activities and collaboration with agencies, funds and programmes on projects in the field has increased the visibility of UNISFA assets in deep field sites, resulting in increased incidences of malicious acts, liabilities and incidents requiring security investigations. The Security Officer (Investigations) (Field Service) is proposed to provide UNISFA with the resources required to monitor and investigate incidents in field sites; gather intelligence to ensure the safety of personnel, assets and property of both UNISFA and agencies, funds and programmes.

<i>Component/Office/Section/Unit</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Planned duties to be performed by new post/position</i>
Community Liaison Office	Community Liaison Officer (P-3)	The Community Liaison Officer (P-3) would help the Community Liaison Office meet the new mandate requirement for implementing activities related to strengthening early warning mechanisms for human rights abuses and would foster community engagement to support the operationalization of the human rights mandate of UNISFA.
Office of the Chief of Mission Support	Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5 general temporary assistance)	The Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5 general temporary assistance) is proposed to oversee the planning and management of the multi-year camp improvement plan, which includes the implementation of the Smart Camp concept and the refurbishment and upgrading of existing facilities. The deployment of eight new multinational troop-contributing countries has resulted in an urgent need to rehabilitate UNISFA camps and facilities. This multifunctional project requires close collaboration and coordination across all three mission support pillars (supply chain, service delivery, and operations and resources management), as well as the utilization of significant financial resources. The Senior Programme Management Officer will be responsible for leading the project, drafting plans and standard operational procedures; coordinating between military, police, substantive and support service pillars and managing material and financial resources associated with the project.
Service Delivery Services Section/Aviation Unit	Air Operations Assistant (national General Service)	The Air Operations Assistant (national General Service) is proposed to provide increased support in Wau to ensure support to the increased number of flights through Wau due to troop movements and rotations and the introduction of night-time medical evacuation and casualty evacuation operations; and to coordinate with local authorities in support of air operations through Wau.
	Fire Safety Assistant (national General Service)	The Fire Safety Assistant (national General Service) is proposed to provide support to the only Aviation Fire Safety Officer in the mission in ensuring the safety of mission air assets, taking into consideration the expansion of the fleet and the complete absence of local fire safety and firefighting capacity in Abyei.
Service Delivery Services Section/Life Support Contracts Unit	Rations Officer (P-3)	The revised troop configuration has resulted in increased complexity in the work of Rations Unit. The Rations Officer (P-3) would: (a) allow the Unit to oversee food quality and food safety standards across all UNISFA locations; (b) manage the \$11 million rations budget; (c) ensure that all troop-contributing countries are fully in compliance with United Nations rules and regulations; and (d) coordinate with troop-contributing countries counterparts to minimize planning and delivery delays which will critically affect mandate-related activities.

<i>Component/Office/Section/Unit</i>	<i>Functional title</i>	<i>Planned duties to be performed by new post/position</i>
Supply Chain Management Section/Centralized Warehousing Unit	Centralized Warehousing Officer (P-3)	The proposed establishment of the Centralized Warehousing Officer (P-3) is part of an overall plan to restructure the Centralized Warehousing Unit to better manage the supply chain in its role as primary custodian of goods and materials. The reconfiguration of UNISFA to a multinational Force has resulted in a 27 per cent increase in warehouse-related transactions. The proposed incumbent would fill the gaps in data management, process reengineering within the warehouse, and discrepancy management in order to improve overall operations and strengthen supply chain integration.
Supply Chain Management Section/ Movement Control and Distribution Unit	Movement Control Officer (P-3)	With the reconfiguration of UNISFA to a multinational Force with eight troop-contributing countries, the volume and complexity of planning for inbound and outbound contingent-owned equipment will increase drastically. The volume of external and internal troop-related movement operations are expected to increase by approximately 60 per cent. To support the new configuration, UNISFA is also exploring new supply chain routes. The proposed incumbent would be responsible for leading the Cargo Operations Cell, handling the planning and execution of inbound and outbound contingent-owned equipment and cargo movements through both northern and southern routes. The additional Officer-level capacity in the Unit would also allow the Unit to fully utilize the data and business intelligence derived from the Umoja transportation module.
Operations and Resource Management Section/Field Technology Services Unit	Information Management Assistant (Field Service)	The Information Management Assistant (Field Service) is proposed to establish a mission-wide digital records management system to ensure mission-critical documents in substantive, uniformed, and mission support components are digitalized and properly classified in order to ensure continuity through the maintenance of institutional knowledge. The position would also provide information systems and information management support to programmatic and police activities which are expected to expand during the 2023/24 budget period.
Operations and Resource Management Section Mission Support Centre	Logistics Officer (international United Nations Volunteer)	The Logistics Officer (international United Nations Volunteer) is proposed to support the Mission Support Centre in logistics planning and troop support in the new multinational troop-contributing country structure. With a single troop-contributing country, logistics planning and contingent-owned equipment were centrally managed; however, with eight troop-contributing countries, the requirement for coordination through the Mission Support Centre has significantly expanded. The Logistics Officer will serve as a focal point for contingents in coordination with the mission support component for deployment, rotation, and all other logistics requirements; for the conducting of regular inspections; for the preparation of logistics plans, and for the preparation of regular reports to UNISFA management and Headquarters.