



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 151

### Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

## **Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy**

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

Appropriation for 2021/22	\$65,694,700
Expenditure for 2021/22	\$65,621,700
Unencumbered balance for 2021/22	\$73,000
Appropriation for 2022/23	\$65,958,600
Projected expenditure for 2022/23 <sup>a</sup>	\$64,464,500
Projected underexpenditure for 2022/23 <sup>a</sup>	\$1,494,100
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2023/24	\$66,284,600
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2023/24	(\$307,100)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2023/24	\$65,977,500

<sup>a</sup> Estimates as at 24 February 2023.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 2 May 2023.



## I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the reports on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy ([A/77/613](#) and [A/77/741](#)), 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 4 April 2023. The comments and recommendations of the 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 [75/295](#), the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$65,694,700 gross (\$59,132,100 net) for the maintenance of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Expenditures for the period totalled \$65,621,700 gross (\$58,966,200 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 99.9 per cent. The unencumbered balance of \$73,000, in gross terms, reflects the net impact of the reduced expenditures for civilian personnel (\$1,854,500) and the increased requirements for operational costs (\$1,781,500). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 ([A/77/613](#)).

3. During the reporting period, an amount of \$1,783,300 was redeployed from group II, civilian personnel, to group III, operational costs, to cover overexpenditures attributable mainly to projects planned for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 budget cycles that had been deprioritized during those periods owing to higher expenditure for civilian personnel. Lower-than-planned expenditure in the civilian personnel group resulted from the appreciation of the United States dollar against the euro, coupled with higher-than-budgeted vacancy rates for international and national staff (*ibid.*, para. 81). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that peacekeeping entities may reprioritize resources, including through the postponement of operational activities.

4. The Advisory Committee was informed that unliquidated obligations for the 2020/21 budget period as at 30 June 2021 amounted to \$2,121,900 and those for the 2021/22 budget period as at 30 June 2022 amounted to \$5,778,300.

## III. Information on performance for the current period

5. 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 \$47,637,700 (gross) and that, at the end of the current financial period, the estimated total expenditures would amount to \$64,464,500, leaving a projected unencumbered balance of \$1,494,100, for a projected budget utilization rate of 97.7 per cent.

6. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as at 6 February 2023, the cash available to the United Nations Logistics Base amounted to \$37,400,000, which was sufficient to cover its three-month operating reserve of \$16,490,000.

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

### **A. Mandate and planned results**

7. The United Nations Logistics Base has been in operation at Brindisi since late 1994, when a memorandum of understanding governing the use of the property and facilities at Brindisi by the United Nations was signed by the Secretary-General and the Government of Italy. The first addendum to the memorandum, in respect of the donation of three new warehouses, was signed on 7 December 2001, and the second addendum, pertaining to the transfer of additional premises and areas to the United Nations Logistics Base by the Government of Italy, was signed on 4 August 2008. A third addendum, in respect of the transfer of six buildings and an open area to the United Nations Logistics Base by the Government of Italy, was signed on 23 November 2011. An agreement governing the use of premises in Valencia, Spain, by the United Nations was signed by the Secretary-General and the Government of Spain on 28 January 2009. A supplemental administrative agreement regarding the use by the United Nations of premises in Valencia was signed on 16 March 2009, and an addendum to the administrative agreement providing for additional premises in Valencia, to be made available to the United Nations by the Government of Spain, was signed on 7 June 2021 ([A/77/741](#), para. 2).

8. The United Nations Logistics Base operates as a unified entity, comprising two sites located in Brindisi and Valencia providing global geospatial, information and telecommunications technologies, service delivery and supply chain operational support and environmental technical assistance, as well as other enabling support services, throughout the life of field missions, from start-up planning and preparation to liquidation (*ibid.*, para. 3). The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives for the 2023/24 period are summarized in section I.B of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget (*ibid.*).

### **B. Resource requirements**

9. The proposed budget in the amount of \$66,284,600 for 2023/24 represents an increase of \$326,000, or 0.5 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$65,958,600 for the 2022/23 period. Information on variances between the 2022/23 apportionment and the proposed resources for 2023/24 is contained in section III of the proposed budget (*ibid.*).

## 1. Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment (2021/22)	Expenditures (2021/22)	Apportionment (2022/23)	Expenditures as at 31 March 2022	Cost estimates (2023/24)	Variance	
						Amount	Percentage
Civilian personnel	45 326.4	43 471.9	44 939.6	30 666.2	43 303.0	(1 636.6)	(3.6)
Operational costs	20 368.3	22 149.8	21 019.0	16 971.5	22 981.6	1 962.6	9.3
<b>Gross requirements</b>	<b>65 694.7</b>	<b>65 621.7</b>	<b>65 958.6</b>	<b>47 637.7</b>	<b>66 284.6</b>	<b>326.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Staff assessment income	6 562.6	6 655.5	6 890.4	4 595.6	6 368.1	(522.3)	(7.6)
<b>Net requirements</b>	<b>59 132.1</b>	<b>58 966.2</b>	<b>59 068.2</b>	<b>43 042.1</b>	<b>59 916.5</b>	<b>848.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>65 694.7</b>	<b>65 621.7</b>	<b>65 958.6</b>	<b>47 637.7</b>	<b>66 284.6</b>	<b>326.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>

10. Information on the proposed resource requirements by location (Brindisi and Valencia) is contained in section II.A of the proposed budget (ibid.). The proposed resources for Brindisi amount to \$53,482,400, which reflects an increase of \$736,200, or 1.4 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$52,746,200 for 2022/23. The proposed resources of \$12,802,200 for Valencia reflect a reduction of \$410,200, or 3.1 per cent, compared with the apportionment of \$13,212,400 for 2022/23.

## 2. Civilian personnel

Category	Approved 2022/23	Proposed 2023/24	Variance
International staff	142	143	1
National staff <sup>a</sup>	305	305	—
Temporary positions <sup>b</sup>	2	2	—
United Nations Volunteers	—	2	2

<sup>a</sup> National General Service staff.

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

11. The proposed resources for civilian personnel amount to \$43,303,000, representing a reduction of \$1,636,600, or 3.6 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2022/23. The proposed reduction is attributable mainly to reduced requirements under national General Service staff due to the projected increase in the vacancy rate and the application of the exchange rate of 0.967 euro to 1 United States dollar, compared with the rate of 0.888 euro applied for the 2022/23 period, offset in part by increased requirements under international United Nations Volunteers (ibid., paras. 126–128).

### Recommendations on posts and positions

12. A total of 448 posts and 4 positions are proposed in the 2023/24 period, which reflects a net increase of 1 post and 2 United Nations Volunteer positions compared with the approved staffing complement in the 2022/23 period. The proposed budget provides for the deployment of 145 international staff, including 2 against general temporary assistance positions, 305 national General Service staff and 2 United Nations Volunteers. A total of 36 staff will be located at the United Nations

Information and Communications Technology Facility, Valencia, 2 staff will continue to be located at the Kuwait Joint Support Office, and 412 staff and 2 United Nations Volunteers will be assigned to the Logistics Base, Brindisi (*ibid.*, para. 11). The proposed complement of 452 posts and positions reflects the following staffing changes (*ibid.*, para. 12):

(a) Establishment of one Associate Data Analyst (P-2) post in the Office of the Director; and the establishment of two international United Nations Volunteer positions, one in the Office of the Director and one in the Office of the Chief, Central Service (see also *ibid.*, paras. 98–99 and 102);

(b) Reclassification of one Facilities Management Officer (FS-6) to Facilities Management Officer (P-4) (see also *ibid.*, para. 104);

(c) Redeployment of four posts within the Supply Chain Service: one Logistics Assistant (Field Service) from the Delivery and Return Section to the Planning Support and Sourcing Section; three Logistics Assistants (national General Service) from the Planning Support and Sourcing Section to the Delivery and Return Section (see also *ibid.*, paras. 107–109).

13. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the United Nations Logistics Base did not currently have any Data Analyst position, which was necessary for data-based decision-making and for reporting on efficiencies and other critical indicators. The incumbent would produce timely and actionable information to help to drive business results and guide decision-making; would be responsible for performance analysis based on relevant metrics and the specific key performance indicators of the United Nations Logistics Base; and would support cross-cutting performance analysis and reporting across the United Nations Logistics Base. This capability would allow the use of data to predict future trends and to draw conclusions about past events and would also allow accounting for realized efficiencies, as requested in paragraph 59 of General Assembly resolution [76/274](#). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the P-2 Data Analyst, in addition to contributing to better and more detailed information on efficiencies achieved (see para. 41 below), will also provide support to small peacekeeping missions with no data analyst capacity.**

#### **Vacancy rates**

14. 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 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 <sup>a</sup>	Actual as at 31 March 2023	Actual average as at 31 March 2023	Projected 2023/24
<b>Civilian personnel</b>							
International staff	13.0	16.5	13.0	18.4	19.0	19.6	15.5
National staff	4.0	6.6	4.0	5.9	7.2	6.1	5.9
Temporary positions							
International staff	–	66.7	–	66.7	50.0	50.0	–

<sup>a</sup> 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.

15. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed rates for international staff and national staff differ from the average actual rates and actual rates as at 31 March 2023. **The Advisory Committee recalls 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 is, nonetheless, of the view that efforts should continue to be made 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 and special post allowance**

16. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2023, there were 50 vacant posts, including 10 posts in the tenant units. Two national General Service staff members were receiving special post allowance as at 23 March 2023. **The Advisory Committee trusts that all efforts will be made to fill the vacant posts expeditiously.**

**Other staffing matters***Tenant units*

17. Information on the tenant units is provided in paragraphs 71 to 83 of the proposed budget ([A/77/741](#)). It is indicated that four units are at present hosted in Brindisi, including: (a) two units which report to the Department of Peace Operations: the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, comprising 36 posts and 7 posts, respectively; and (b) two units which report to the Department of Operational Support: the Strategic Air Operations Centre and the Field Central Review Bodies Unit, comprising 10 posts and 11 posts, respectively.

18. An assessment of the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity is annexed to the report of the Secretary-General (*ibid.*, annex III).<sup>1</sup> As an integral part of the Police Division within the Office of Rule of Law and

<sup>1</sup> In its resolution [76/277](#), the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that an assessment of the services offered by the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity be provided in the next report on the United Nations Logistics Base (see [A/76/760/Add.5](#), para. 31).

Security Institutions of the Department of Peace Operations, the Standing Policy Capacity provides peace operations with timely police and other law enforcement expertise for: (a) start-up capability of police components; (b) assistance in transitions and/or drawdown; and (c) other necessary, time-bound policing-related expertise that may not be readily available in the missions when required. The Standing Police Capacity has operated as a tenant unit (and within the budget) of the United Nations Logistics Base since 1 July 2009.

19. For its part, the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, which is also an integral part of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, is a field-oriented rapid response team of rule of law, justice and corrections experts who deploy to United Nations peace operations, typically during mission start-up, surge and transition phases. The nature of deployments by the Capacity has changed over the years, from its serving primarily as a surge capacity to the provision of more specialized skills that were lacking within the field mission.

20. The assessment of the Standing Police Capacity indicates that, since 1 January 2019, the Capacity has undertaken 102 deployments to peace operations with a strong focus on Department of Peace Operations-led missions (*ibid.*, para. 5). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that there was a continuing role for the Capacity, even more so with the transitions and drawdowns seen in peacekeeping as exemplified by its continued support (through deployments and remotely) to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the Mission's transition. According to the information provided, the Capacity will have an increasing role in linking United Nations police in peacekeeping operations with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, both before and during transition and after mission exit. Furthermore, the Capacity is a system-wide service provider and, in accordance with the Department of Peace Operations and Department of Operational Support policy, it may also receive requests for assistance from other intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations or countries that do not have United Nations missions. To date, the Capacity has supported not only peacekeeping operations but also the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Development Coordination Office and resident coordinator offices, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). In this manner, the Capacity may provide targeted support to Member States, not only through a peacekeeping operation or special political mission but also through the United Nations country team. Increased demand may require additional capacity in areas such as forensics, skills to combat cybercrime, border management, crime data analytics and management and protection of natural resources (minerals, forests, etc.) (see also *ibid.*, para. 3).

21. The assessment of the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity also indicates that the standing capacities have proved to be efficient and effective tools in supporting peacekeeping operations at critical times during their lifespan and continue to be relevant in the current peacekeeping context. Drawing on the many benefits that the two capacities have shown, the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions considers it beneficial to provide similar readily deployable expertise and capacity in other areas under its purview relating to rule of law and security institutions, to support peace operations. Against this backdrop, the Office established, through limited extrabudgetary funding, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standing Capacity (1 P-4) and the Security Sector Reform Standing Capacity (1 P-5) in 2019 and 2021, respectively.

22. With regard to the location of the Standing Police Capacity, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the arrangement put in place in 2009 by which the Capacity operated as a tenant unit (and within the budget) of the United Nations Logistics Base had proved functional and cost-effective. As a rapidly deployable asset of the Department of Peace Operations, the Capacity could deploy to any location globally, without requiring separate teams being based full-time in different locations.

23. With regard to field deployments, the Advisory Committee was provided with information showing that, in 2021/22, the Standing Police Capacity (with 36 staff members) carried out 1,919 days of field deployment, including remote assistance, while the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (with 7 staff members) carried out 1,224 deployment days. For the 2022/23 period until the end of February 2023, the number of days of field deployment stood at 1,621 and 611, respectively. The information provided also indicates that the existing capacity in the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity is deployed, for the most part, with extrabudgetary financing, whether from their own extrabudgetary funds, partners' project funds or cost-sharing (see annex). The Committee notes that, for 2021/22, the Standing Police Capacity carried out an average of 53.3 days of deployment per approved staff member, while the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity carried out an average of 174.8 days of deployment, including remote assistance.

**24. The Advisory Committee notes that the Standing Police Capacity and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity have evolved over time to become United Nations system-wide providers. The Committee trusts that the Capacities will continue to prioritize the assistance provided to peacekeeping operations and that detailed information on the field deployment rates, on workload indicators of the existing staff capacity and on the cost-recovery model applied to support extrabudgetary financed activities will be included in the next budget on the United Nations Logistics Base.**

#### *Geographical representation*

25. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 17 March 2023, of the 115 staff members in the Professional and higher categories, Africa was represented by 23 staff, Asia and the Pacific by 20 staff, Eastern Europe by 15 staff, Latin America and the Caribbean by 11 staff and Western Europe and other States by 46 staff. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the United Nations Logistics Base will enhance its efforts to achieve equitable geographical representation of Member States among its staff.**

#### *Gender balance*

26. The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that, in the 2021/22 period, women represented 30 per cent of international staff and 35 per cent of national General Service Staff. For the 2023/24 period until 28 February 2023, women represented 33 per cent of international staff and 35 per cent of national General Service staff. **The Advisory Committee notes the increase in the percentage of women among international staff and trusts that the United Nations Logistics Base will continue its efforts to achieve gender balance among its staff population.**

#### *Workforce planning exercise*

27. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the last staffing review of United Nations Logistics Base personnel was conducted in 2017 and that a



workforce planning exercise was in progress in March 2023. According to the Secretariat, the Logistics Base intends to assess the opportunity and feasibility of employing National Professional Officers during this exercise, as this type of posts can be considered in both administrative and technical areas and could attract highly qualified national staff such as engineers. **The Advisory Committee notes the intention of the United Nations Logistics Base to assess the opportunity and feasibility of establishing National Professional Officer posts at the United Nations Logistics Base and looks forward to receiving further information in the next budget report.** The Committee discusses civilian staffing reviews in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

28. **The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals regarding civilian personnel.**

### 3. Operational costs

#### Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment (2021/22)	Expenditure (2021/22)	Apportionment (2022/23)	Expenditures as at 31 March 2023	Cost estimates (2023/24)	Variance	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Amount (6)=(5)-(3)	Percentage (7)=(6)÷(3)
<b>Operational costs</b>							
Consultants and consulting services	160.6	283.5	144.5	218.0	173.4	28.9	20.0
Official travel	451.6	415.5	359.2	354.7	413.4	54.2	15.1
Facilities and infrastructure	5 607.2	6 279.8	5 700.8	4 962.1	6 885.8	1 185.0	20.8
Ground transportation	381.7	511.1	381.7	387.8	566.8	185.1	48.5
Air operations	6.3	7.2	3.0	9.4	9.0	6.0	200.0
Marine operations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Communications and information technology	12 706.3	13 454.1	13 345.5	10 273.2	13 772.3	426.8	3.2
Medical	87.3	64.1	68.8	28.7	72.2	3.4	4.9
Other supplies, services and equipment	967.3	1 134.5	1 015.5	737.6	1 088.7	73.2	7.2
<b>Total, operational costs</b>	<b>20 368.3</b>	<b>22 149.8</b>	<b>21 019.0</b>	<b>16 971.5</b>	<b>22 981.6</b>	<b>1 962.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>

29. The proposed resources for operational costs amounting to \$22,981,600 for 2023/24, represent an increase of \$1,962,600, or 9.3 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2022/23. The increase reflects increased requirements under facilities and infrastructure, communications and information technology, ground transportation, other supplies, services and equipment, official travel, consultants and air operations.

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

(a) *Official travel*: the proposed resources for 2023/24 amount to \$413,400 compared with an apportionment of \$359,200 in 2022/23, reflecting an increase of \$54,200. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that greater use should be made of virtual meetings and online training tools and that travel for workshops, conferences or meetings should be kept to a minimum and, if proposed, detailed justifications should be provided. The Committee, therefore, recommends a**

**reduction of 30 per cent (\$16,300) to the proposed resource increase for official travel (\$54,200);**

(b) *Facilities and infrastructure*: the proposed resources of \$6,885,800 represent an increase of \$1,185,000, compared with the apportionment for 2022/23. The information provided indicates that the increase reflects primarily increased requirements under construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance (\$526,200). The Advisory Committee notes delays in the implementation of construction projects resulting in low expenditure in the current period so far, since as at 31 December 2022 only \$337,000, of an allocation of \$1,124,400, has been expended. **In view of the low expenditure, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent (\$176,400) to the proposed resource increase for facilities and infrastructure excluding the proposed resource increase for petrol, oil and lubricants (\$1,176,300);**

(c) *Ground transportation*: the proposed resources of \$566,800 represent an increase of \$185,100, or 48.5 per cent, compared with the apportionment for 2022/23. The increase is primarily attributable to increased requirements for repairs and maintenance. The Advisory Committee notes that in 2020/21, the United Nations Logistics Base had initiated the implementation of a vehicle replacement plan of 12 vehicles, starting with the acquisition of two electric vehicles ([A/76/730](#), para. 162). The Committee also notes that in the current period, as at 28 February 2023, expenditure for acquisition of vehicles is already at \$66,900 against an appropriation of \$46,000. The Advisory Committee considers that the acquisition of new vehicles should result in reduced requirements in terms of maintenance and repairs. **In view of these elements, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent (\$71,700) to the proposed resources for ground transportation excluding the resources for petrol, oil and lubricants (\$478,100);**

(d) *Communications and information technology*: the proposed resources of \$13,772,300 represent an increase of \$426,800 compared with the apportionment for 2022/23. The increased requirements are mainly attributable to maintenance of communications, IT equipment and support services: (i) to maintain and enhance the Environmental Action Planning and Performance Application (eApp); and (ii) to support and host an open-source examination platform ([A/77/741](#), para. 134). **The Advisory Committee considers that the United Nations Logistics Base should be able to phase out the proposed increase under maintenance activities and, therefore, recommends a 10 per cent reduction (\$42,700) to the proposed resource increase for communications and information technology (\$426,800).**

31. With regard to fuel, the Advisory Committee notes, from supplementary information provided, that a total amount of \$161,041 is budgeted across two budget classes, reflecting an increase of \$68,241, due mainly to higher average prices compared with the prices applied in the approved budget for 2022/23, as follows: (a) in Brindisi: \$1.096 per litre of fuel for vehicles, compared with \$0.515 per litre, and \$1.096 per litre of fuel under facilities and infrastructure, compared with \$0.575 per litre; (b) in Valencia: \$1.824 per litre of fuel under facilities and infrastructure, compared with \$1.000 per litre. The Committee discusses matters concerning petrol, oil, and lubricants in its report on cross cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

32. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraph 30 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs.**

## V. Other matters

### *Services provided to other entities and cost recovery*

33. Information on the services provided to other entities and an analysis of cost recovery estimates for 2023/24 are contained in paragraphs 67 to 70 and tables 2 and 3 of the proposed budget report (A/77/741). The United Nations Logistics Base will continue to provide services for geospatial, information and communications technologies as well as supply chain services to non-peacekeeping related offices and departments of the United Nations Secretariat and to entities of the United Nations system, including and funds and programmes on a cost-recovery basis. In addition, the United Nations Logistics Base will provide training, warehousing, maintenance and remote property management services on a cost-recovery basis. The costs to be recovered are based on approved service rate cards, which are reviewed on an annual basis by the Office of the Controller. The amount to be recovered for 2023/24 is estimated at \$15,093,000 compared with \$14,390,600 for 2022/23 (see A/76/730, table 2).

34. The United Nations Logistics Base intends to use the projected cost-recovery income to fund 15 general temporary positions including nine international and six national General Service staff (A/77/741, para. 70). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget authorizes the extrabudgetary posts that can be funded through cost-recovery resources. The number of posts is directly linked to the resources needed to deliver the agreed services and to the revenues generated under the annual cost plan approved by the Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget. Staffing levels are reviewed on an annual basis to adjust to the projected activities and corresponding revenue. The job postings for the cost recovery positions have a clause that states the posts are extrabudgetary in nature and renewal is subject to the availability of funds.

35. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the table below on United Nations Logistics Base revenue by source of funding from 2018/19 to 2022/23:

#### **United Nations Logistics Base revenue by source of funds**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Budget period</i>	<i>Assessed contributions</i>	<i>Cost recovery</i>	<i>Extrabudgetary</i>
2018/19 actual	82 078.8	8 661.5	–
2019/20 actual	63 266.5	9 767.9	1 830.3
2020/21 actual	62 053.1	12 514.5	817.2
2021/22 actual	65 621.7	15 642.2	197.1
2022/23 approved	65 958.6	14 390.6	1 562.8

36. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the United Nations Logistics Base does not cost recover for personnel (such as from the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations International Computing Centre and other third-party contractors) who are working under contractual arrangement with the Department of Operational Support and its related mandated functions and activities. This arrangement is in accordance with provisions in relevant agreements with the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations International Computing Centre and other third-party contractors which require provision of adequate working and office space, and related infrastructure and support.

37. The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the General Assembly should be provided with comprehensive and transparent information on the services provided to different entities, the resources required to provide those services and the different financing and cost recovery arrangements, as well as the recording of related income and expenditures (see also [A/76/760/Add.5](#), para.44, [A/75/822/Add.10](#), para. 43 and [A/74/737/Add.6](#), para. 26). The Advisory Committee discusses cost-recovery in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations ([A/77/767](#)).

*Occupancy of non-United Nations Logistics Base personnel*

38. Information on the contractors and personnel occupying facilities at Brindisi and Valencia is provided in paragraphs 63 to 66 and table 1 of the proposed budget report ([A/77/741](#)). In his report, the Secretary-General estimates that 862 full-time support personnel from other entities will occupy premises at the United Nations Logistics Base in 2023/24 (including 221 personnel in Brindisi and 641 in Valencia) compared with 786 personnel in 2021/22 and an estimate of 732 personnel in 2022/23. Of the 862 personnel, 825 would provide functions related to communications and information technology, while the remaining 37 are from the United Nations Field Staff Union, the master data maintenance team and other United Nations personnel in Brindisi (*ibid.*, para. 66 and table 1).

39. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that bilateral arrangements between other United Nations entities and the Governments of Spain and Italy, respectively, were separate from the host country agreements between the United Nations and said Governments. Nevertheless, the provisions of the Host Country Agreements (in terms of conditions, privileges and immunities) were extended to other United Nations entities that are hosted in Brindisi and Valencia. Under the terms of the agreement between Spain and the United Nations, the former makes the Valencia premises available to the United Nations for its use in providing support to United Nations peacekeeping and related operations. Spain may also make available the premises to other United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Organization for Migration, with the consent of the Department of Operational Support. The Committee was also informed that the costs associated with the sharing of the facilities with non-United Nations Logistics Base personnel supporting other United Nations entities hosted at Brindisi and Valencia premises with whom the United Nations Logistics Base maintains a service-level agreement, are fully recovered under the cost-recovery framework.

*Cost avoidance, reduced costs and greater efficiency*

40. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed about cost avoidance, reduced costs and greater efficiencies resulting from the following supply chain activities of the Base:

(a) Return-refurbish-reuse programme: the first 103 assets recovered from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) liquidation and that undergoing refurbishment should result in approximately \$10 to \$12 million of cost avoidance. Out of this, a total of \$937,200 has already been realized as at 22 March 2022 through the refurbishment of seven assets;

(b) Reduction of mission inventory levels: the forthcoming spare parts management project targets the large spare parts holdings in missions and anticipates reducing the stockholdings by 10 to 15 per cent by the third quarter of 2024;

(c) Reduction of missions' property holdings: the distribution of surplus to other entities through the role of clearing house and semi-automatically reviewing each shopping cart from missions result in cost avoidance. In the last two budget

cycles, a total of \$53.9 million in surplus property related to UNAMID liquidation can be considered as notional cost avoidance owing to the activities of the United Nations Logistics Base. In future periods, estimated cost avoidance of \$2 to \$4 million per year can be anticipated in relation to the clearing house activities.

41. The Advisory Committee was also informed about cost avoidance, reduced costs and greater efficiencies resulting from the following geospatial, information and telecommunications technologies activities of the United Nations Logistics Base:

(a) Information and communications technology remote mission support: the centralized remote management, operation and support of information and communications technology (ICT) in-mission infrastructure equipment reduces ICT staff footprint in the field and achieves operational cost savings, while providing continuous system availability. The cost-benefit analysis estimated an annual savings of \$2 million per year through the consolidation and centralization of ICT support staff at the United Nations Logistics Base;

(b) United Nations Smart Camp: the field remote infrastructure management system (Unite FRIM) is an Internet of Things solution, tailored for United Nations-specific needs which allows for the reduction of operational costs and the extension of the life of assets, provides reliable actual data on consumption and utilization allowing for data-driven decision making and improving real-time consumption control, which supports improved accuracy of future consumption planning and budgeting. Unite FRIM also provides early detection of incidents; assists increased availability and uptime of monitored infrastructure equipment; improves planning of maintenance by reducing unplanned downtime; and provides extensive information on usage patterns, which enables the identification of areas for efficiency improvements and cost reduction;

(c) Digital terrestrial trunked radio systems (TETRA): this Internet protocol-based system offers networking flexibilities, including the establishment of a centralized switching infrastructure which is data and voice capable to support field missions. Currently 10 missions and entities are connected to the TETRA system. Some of its benefits are scalability and ease of expansion; reduced equipment holdings; reduced cooling requirements; and economies of scale through reduced infrastructure;

(d) M-Products: modular ICT solutions that enable field operations to be agile and responsive to crisis situations and reduced dependency on fossil fuels, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The products are modular, energy self-sufficient ICT equipment rooms used at mission sites operating in challenging environments, often with no ICT infrastructure readily available. As at 22 March 2023, a total of 160 modular solutions have been delivered in 10 field operations. The cost to produce an M-product is estimated at about \$120,000, versus comparable commercial solutions at \$450,000.

**42. The Advisory Committee trusts that updated and detailed information on cost avoidance, reduced costs and greater efficiencies will be included in the next report on the United Nations Logistics Base, in conformity with paragraph 59 of General Assembly resolution 76/274.**

*Strategic deployment stocks and inventory management*

43. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as the General Assembly took no action on the new concept of the strategic deployment stocks at its seventy-sixth session, only limited pilot projects are currently being implemented (see [A/76/730](#), annexes III and IV and [A/76/760/Add.14](#)). The categorization of the strategic deployment stocks composition was done in order to identify suitable items

to be included in the composition of the regional deployment stocks and the United Nations Logistics Base is currently working on a vendor-managed inventory pilot project for hand-held, mobile and base radio transceivers which is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2022/23.

44. With regard to the management of missions' stocks, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the "smart warehouse" project which is aimed at transforming warehouse operations from a "custodian-focused" function to a value-adding, customer service-oriented function which supports the United Nations Supply Chain Strategy. Specifically, the project will focus on end-to-end supply chain visibility for assets, equipment, and inventory. The expected result is that warehouse operations will be more cost-effective and easier to manage. The project is supported by provisions for the United Nations Logistics Base central warehouse and consultancy fees amounting to \$126,864 for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 periods.

45. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the redeployment of the three Logistics Assistants (national General Service staff) to the Delivery and Return Section, will provide more capacity to identify excess holdings of assets, monitor obsolescence and proactively offer advice to ensure optimal utilization of assets and contribute to the proper sizing of holdings on a global level. It is indicated that this measure is proposed in the context of implementation of the Board of Auditors recommendation that the Administration establish a centralized analysing and enforcing function to perform cross-cutting analysis of missions' and service centres' property, plant and equipment inventory holdings (A/76/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 134). The Committee was further informed that virtual inspections were possible with tools that have been developed. However, their success will depend on data accuracy and require close cooperation from field entities. This capacity will also facilitate building mission capacity, downsize and liquidation assistance and increased remote technical and evaluation assistance.

46. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as part of the delegation of authority framework established in 2019, the guidelines for asset transfer and clearing house role state that "new procurement activities should be undertaken after all other sourcing options (namely United Nations reserve, mission surplus and strategic deployment stocks) have been explored". The missions were guided to request details on such sourcing options from the United Nations Logistics Base.

**47. The Advisory Committee trusts that information on the efforts to optimize the management of stocks and inventory in peacekeeping entities will be included in the next report on the United Nations Logistics Base, including more details on the progress achieved in reinforcing the role of the Office of Supply Chain Management for centralized analysing and enforcing functions on inventory management.**

#### *Information and communications technology*

48. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, in 2023/24, a total of 47 personnel (23 staff members and 24 contractors) of the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) will be located at the United Nations Logistics Base (42 in Valencia and 5 in Brindisi). Moreover, the United Nations Logistics Base will recover an amount of \$7,484,300 from OICT for hosting services, data storage, connectivity services, event monitoring, platform services and application services (A/77/741, tables 1 and 2). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as stated in General Assembly resolution 63/262, OICT is an independent organizational unit under a separate budget section providing strong, central leadership for the establishment and implementation of Organization-wide ICT standards and activities in order to ensure efficient utilization of resources,



modernization of information systems and improvement in ICT services available to the United Nations. The United Nations Logistics Base is fully aligned with the governance framework, policies and standards of OICT on all ICT matters including cyber security. This alignment is ensured via the various governance bodies established and steered by OICT, including the ICT Policy Committee and the Architecture Review Board.

49. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the management reform recognizes that OICT provides that strategy, direction and global implementation of activities will be managed at United Nations Headquarters, with local operations being supported through the implementation of globalized technology solutions provided through the Global Service Centre at Brindisi, and the United Nations Information and Communications Technology Facility, Valencia. The mandate of the United Nations Logistics Base is to provide rapid, effective, efficient and responsible services and solutions to its clients. The United Nations Logistics Base is a Secretariat-wide service provider in the areas of digital technology and supply chain management among other areas.

**50. The Advisory Committee notes the respective roles of the Office and Information and Communications Technology and the United Nations Logistics Base and underlines the importance of coordination and cooperation in order to increase efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts.** The Advisory Committee further discusses this matter in its report on the Information and Communications Technology Strategy ([A/77/7/Add.22](#)).

#### *Scalability model*

51. Information on the scalability model is provided in paragraphs 53 to 62 of the budget report ([A/77/741](#)). A key principle of the United Nations Logistics Base scalability model, which could be defined as the ability to grow or shrink according to demand for its services, is ensuring a core service and support capacity as well as the retention of critical knowledge and skills in key areas. This is supplemented, as required, by contractual services and capacities as workloads fluctuate and expand. The contractual capacities include agreements with other United Nations agencies that are revised yearly and scaled according to demand and planned deliverables, contracts with commercial providers, and the use of individual contractors.

52. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that in the past 10 years, the overall budget of the United Nations Logistics Base has followed the decreasing trends of the United Nations peacekeeping missions' budget, which decreased by 17 per cent (from \$7,181.6 million to \$5,971.7 million), while the portfolio of mandated services offered by the United Nations Logistics Base to peacekeeping missions increased. For the 2012/13 period, the approved budget of the United Nations Logistics Base amounted to \$68.6 million, while the approved budget for 2022/23 is \$66.0 million, representing a decrease of \$2.6 million (3.8 per cent). In the past 10 years, the Supply Chain Service was delegated to provide additional critical functions in the areas of environmental technical support, field contract performance management, supply chain planning support, and the "solution factory", among others. During that same period, the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies also added several services to its portfolio (*ibid.*, paras. 55, 58 and 59).

53. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the scalability model associating core personnel and contracted workforce reflects the fact that the United Nations Logistics Base services are of a global and advisory nature, customized to the circumstance and specific requests of each mission or a group of missions. In contrast, the scalability model of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda,

focuses on the transactional elements and considers a full-time equivalent analysis, based on time efforts per transaction and projected annual transaction volumes, considering an increase or decrease in the authorized headcount for the client entities in the following year which will determine expected workload and subsequent changes in resource requirement.

54. The Advisory Committee notes the efforts to refine the scalability model and recalls its recommendation endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/295](#), to further refine the scalability formula, in particular to identify the activities that are scalable and ensure consistency in the application of the scalability model, as well as to ensure that all scalability models take into account, inter alia, workload factors and efficiency gains (see [A/76/760/Add.5](#), para. 48, [A/75/822/Add.10](#), para. 46). The Committee trusts that updated information will be included in the next report on the United Nations Logistics Base. The Advisory makes further comments on scalability in its report on the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe.

## VI. Conclusion

55. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 are indicated in section VI of the performance report ([A/77/613](#)). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of \$73,000 for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, as well as other revenue/adjustments for the period ended 30 June 2022 amounting to \$173,500 from other/miscellaneous revenue (\$70,900) and the cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$133,300), offset by investment loss (\$30,700), be applied against the resources required for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.**

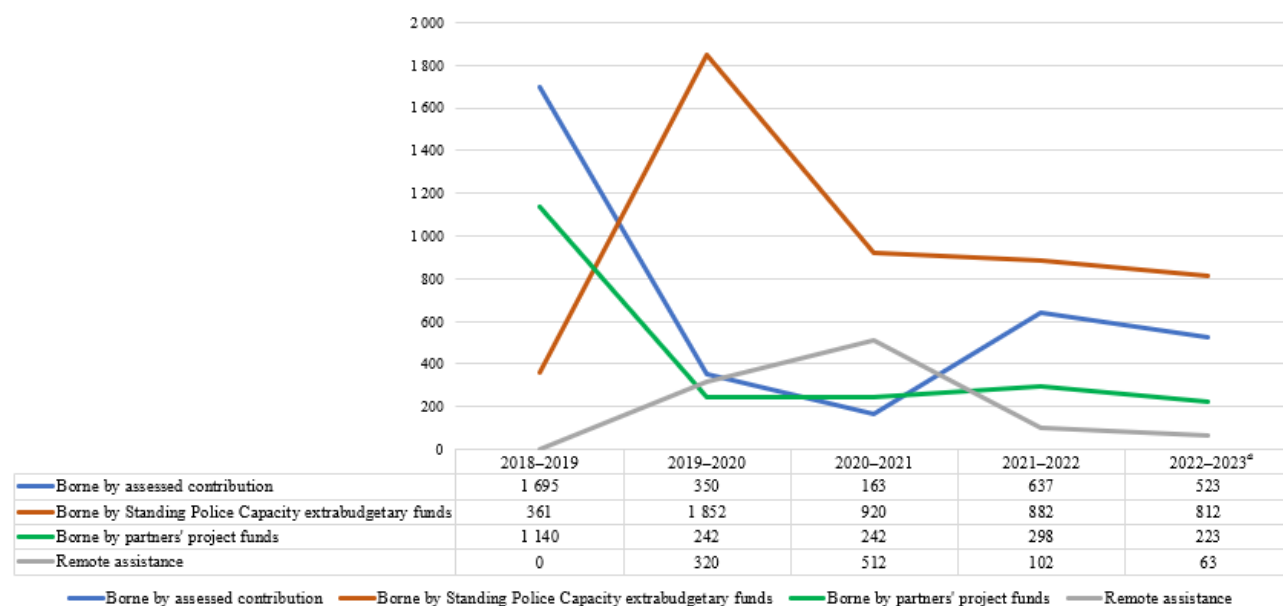
56. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly regarding the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget ([A/77/741](#)). **Taking into account its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$307,100 from \$66,284,600 to \$65,977,500. The Committee further recommends that this amount be prorated among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets to meet the financing requirements of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.**



## Annex

### Field deployments of the Standing Police Capacity and Justice and Correction Standing Capacity

Figure I  
Standing Police Capacity deployment days by funding source 2018–2023



<sup>a</sup> 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023.

Figure II  
Justice and Correction Standing Capacity deployment days by funding source 2018–2023



<sup>a</sup> 1 July 2022 to 28 February 2023.

<sup>b</sup> Between assessed, extrabudgetary and/or project funds.

<sup>c</sup> Days spent on remotely provided support are given here on an indicative basis, as they did not require deployment costs.