



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 April 2019

Original: English

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 161

Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Resources for 2017/18 ^a	\$1,091,174,000
Expenditure for 2017/18	\$1,086,418,800
Unspent commitment authority for 2017/18	\$4,755,200
Resources for 2018/19 ^b	\$1,107,318,900
Projected expenditure for 2018/19 ^c	\$1,107,318,900
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2019/20	\$1,149,778,800
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2019/20	(\$3,720,900)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2019/20	\$1,146,057,900

^a Reflects an appropriation of \$1,048,000,000 and resources authorized under a commitment authority of up to \$43,174,000.

^b Reflects an appropriation of \$1,074,718,900 and resources authorized under a commitment authority of \$32,600,000.

^c Estimates as at 28 February 2019.



I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 25 April 2019. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The comments and recommendations of the Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, can be found in its related report ([A/73/755](#)). The main observations and recommendations of the Board pertaining specifically to MINUSMA are discussed in paragraph 5 below.

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

2. By its resolution [71/305](#), the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$1,048,000,000 gross (\$1,034,674,100 net) for the maintenance of MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2295 \(2016\)](#), by which the Council increased the force levels of the Mission by 2,049 military and 480 police personnel, the Secretary-General sought the concurrence of the Advisory Committee to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$43,174,000 gross to meet the additional requirements. In its letter dated 27 February 2018, the Committee authorized the Secretary-General to enter into such commitments. The total approved resources for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 therefore amounted to \$1,091,174,000 gross (\$1,077,848,100 net) (see [A/73/634](#), paras. 4–5).

3. Expenditures for the period totalled \$1,086,418,800 gross (\$1,071,893,000 net), reflecting an implementation rate of 99.6 per cent of the approved resources (inclusive of a commitment authority of up to \$43,174,000). The resulting unencumbered balance of \$4,755,200 in gross terms, represents 0.4 per cent of the approved resources, reflecting the combined effect of lower-than-budgeted expenditures under operational costs (\$17,781,200, or 3.9 per cent) and military and police personnel (\$2,134,700 or 0.4 per cent) and higher-than-budgeted expenditures under civilian personnel (\$15,160,700 or 9.9 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/634](#)).

4. The report on the budget performance of the Mission indicates that during the 2017/18 period an amount of \$15,234,000 was redeployed from group III, operational costs, to group II, civilian personnel. According to the report, the redeployment to group II was needed to meet the increased requirements resulting from: (a) the reclassification of the Bamako duty station from a hardship level C duty station to a hardship level D duty station, effective January 2018; (b) a new compensation package introduced pursuant to General Assembly resolution [70/244](#) and; (c) revised salary scales for national staff. In his report, the Secretary-General also states that the redeployment of funds from group III was possible owing to: (d) reduced requirements under air operations resulting from the reconfiguration of the Mission's aircraft fleet; (e) a reduced number of flying hours for fixed-wing aircraft and rotary-wing aircraft and lower related fuel consumption; and (f) funds available as a result of efficiencies derived from the Mission's mine detection and mine-clearing services programme (see [A/73/634](#), para. 51). The comments of the Advisory Committee on

the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (A/73/760) in section IV below.

5. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of MINUSMA, 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 2018 (A/73/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its report, the Board made the following specific observations regarding MINUSMA: (a) the Mission incurred casualties due to a lack of armoured personnel carriers and field hospitals; (b) the composition of the Local Property Board did not comply with instructions on the delegation of authority; and (c) the Mission had a relatively high number of human resources staff compared to the number of civilian staff members (*ibid.*, paras. 158, 331 and 422).

III. Information on the current period

6. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2019, expenditures amounted to \$785,011,700. At the end of the current financial period, it is expected that the initial appropriation will be fully used. In addition, a request to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$32.6 million for the period ending 30 June 2019 has been received by the Committee. The Committee has concurred with this request (see para. 10 below).

7. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the incumbency of MINUSMA military, police and civilian personnel as at 28 February 2019, as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Authorized/approved in 2018/19^a</i>	<i>Encumbered</i>	<i>Vacancy rate (percentage)</i>
Military and police personnel			
Military observers	40	39	2.5
Military contingents	13 249	12 987	2.0
United Nations police	350	316	9.7
Formed police unit personnel	1 570	1 433	8.7
Civilian personnel			
Posts			
International staff	810	734	9.4
National Professional Officers	147	123	16.3
National General Service staff	751	633	15.7
General temporary assistance			
International staff	2	2	–
United Nations Volunteers	189	156	17.5
Government-provided personnel	19	9	52.6

^a Represents the highest authorized strength for the period.

8. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 13 March 2019, a total of \$5,724,877,400 had been assessed on Member States in respect of the Mission since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to \$5,477,816,700, leaving an outstanding balance of \$247,060,700. The cash available to the Mission amounted to \$397,831,800, which is sufficient to cover the three-month operating

reserve of \$184,182,500 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries).

9. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, as at 31 December 2018, the costs of contingent-owned equipment had been certified and paid up to 30 September 2018. With regard to death and disability compensation, the Committee was informed that, as at 14 March 2019, an amount of \$7,587,400 had been paid to settle 260 claims made since the inception of the Mission; 99 claims were pending. **The Committee notes with concern the high number of casualties and pending death and disability claims and recalls paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 66/264, in which the Assembly urged the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the timely settlement of all such claims within three months from the date of their submission. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to undertake additional efforts to address the backlog of death and disability claims.**

Commitment authority

10. As indicated in paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee has considered and approved a request of the Controller to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$32.6 million to meet the additional requirements for the expanded deployment of military contingent personnel. According to the Controller, this request reflects the additional resources associated with the increased pace of deployment of MINUSMA's authorized strength of military contingent personnel, which has resulted in a lower actual vacancy rate of 2 per cent as at 28 February 2019 and is projected to average 4.5 per cent for the 2018/19 period compared with the vacancy rate of 11.9 per cent approved for the budget.

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

11. The mandate of MINUSMA was established by the Security Council in its resolution 2100 (2013). The most recent extension of the mandate was authorized by the Council in its resolution 2423 (2018), by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 30 June 2019. The Mission is mandated to help the Council achieve the overall objective of long-term peace and stability in Mali.

12. During the reporting period, the Mission will provide technical, logistical and security support for the organization of municipal by-elections, including *cercle* and regional elections, as well as the senatorial elections scheduled for December 2019 and June 2020 (A/73/760, para. 11). In addition, the Mission will continue to support the Malian Defense and Security Forces from its headquarters in Bamako and its field offices in Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. The Mission is expected to reach full operational capability of uniformed personnel during the 2019/20 period, with the continued gradual increase of its presence in the centre and north regions, particularly in Ménaka (ibid., paras. 13–14 and 24).

13. The Mission plans major construction works within the camps, including the construction of sufficient accommodation to support the newly deployed military and police units and civilian personnel, particularly in the camps in Kidal, Ménaka and Mopti (A/73/760, para. 28). As part of a number of threat-mitigating measures, and to strengthen existing security measures, the Mission plans to install technological camp surveillance systems in Ménaka, Mopti, Tessalit and Timbuktu. These systems

are composed of ground observer radar with a maximum range of 12 kms, two electro-optical sensors (long-range cameras) and a system that efficiently integrates the two components (*ibid.*, para. 35; see also paras. 30–31 below).

B. Resource requirements

14. The proposed budget for MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 amounts to \$1,149,778,800, representing an increase of \$75,059,900, or 7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2018/19. This reflects the combined effect of proposed increases under military and police personnel (\$44,708,900 or 9.9 per cent), civilian personnel (\$16,959,700 or 10.1 per cent) and operational costs (\$13,391,300 or 2.9 per cent). Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget ([A/73/760](#)).

1. Military and police personnel

<i>Category</i>	<i>Authorized 2018/19^a</i>	<i>Proposed 2019/20</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Military observers	40	40	–
Military contingent personnel	13 249	13 249	–
United Nations police	350	350	–
Formed police unit personnel	1 570	1 570	–

^a Represents the highest level of authorized strength.

15. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2019/20 amount to \$495,313,000, representing an increase of \$44,708,900, or 9.9 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2018/19. The proposed increase, which mainly reflects accelerated deployment within the authorized strength of the force, is attributable to: (a) an increase of \$42,246,200 under military contingents owing to the application of a lower delayed deployment factor of 3 per cent in the computation of military contingent personnel costs compared with the rate of 11.9 per cent applied in 2018/19 and a higher rate of reimbursement of \$1,428 (from \$1,410) per person per month; (b) an increase of \$1,620,100 under United Nations police owing to the application of a lower delayed deployment factor of 8 per cent in the computation of United Nations police officers costs compared with the rate of 16.6 per cent applied in 2018/19; and (c) an increase of \$474,000 under formed police units owing to the higher rate of reimbursement of \$1,428 (from \$1,410) per person per month; and (d) an increase of 368,600 under military observers owing to the lower delayed deployment factor of 3 per cent compared with the factor of 20 per cent applied in 2018/19 (see [A/73/760](#), paras. 119–123).

16. In his report, the Secretary-General states that the Mission has made every effort to ensure that a high percentage of the deployed troops are provided with accommodations meeting United Nations standards. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at March 2019, 94 per cent of the uniformed personnel had been provided with United Nations standard accommodations. The Committee was also informed that the Mission plans to accommodate two units, in Diabaly and Mopti, at United Nations standards by the end of the 2019/20 period. **The Committee trusts that the Mission will ensure that troop accommodations meet United Nations standards and that it will provide an update in its next report.**

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

2. Civilian personnel

<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved 2018/19</i>	<i>Proposed 2019/20</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Posts			
International staff	810	819	9
National Professional Officers	147	150	3
National General Service staff	751	754	3
Temporary positions^a			
International staff	2	2	–
United Nations Volunteers	189	197	8
Government-provided personnel	19	19	–
Total	1 899	1 922	23

^a Funded under general temporary assistance.

18. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2019/20 amount to \$184,254,000, reflecting an increase of \$16,959,700, or 10.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2018/19. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed increase is mainly attributable to: (a) an increase of \$12,295,600, or 8.9 per cent, under international staff, reflecting the application of the lower vacancy rate of 10.3 per cent in the computation of international staff costs compared with the rate of 17.4 per cent applied in the 2018/19 period, and the proposed establishment of nine international posts; (b) an increase of \$2,279,100 under national staff owing to the application of the lower vacancy rate of 16 per cent in the computation of national staff costs compared with the rates of 17.7 per cent and 19.8 per cent applied in 2018/19 for National Professional Officers and national General Service staff, respectively, combined with a new salary scale and the proposed establishment of three National Professional Officer posts and three national General Service posts. Increases are also proposed under United Nations Volunteers (\$1,127,000), general temporary assistance (\$1,204,600) and government-provided personnel (\$53,400) (see [A/73/760](#), paras. 125–129).

Vacancy rates and vacant posts

19. The table below provides a summary of the vacancy rates for civilian personnel, including: (a) the budgeted and actual average vacancy rates for 2017/18; (b) the budgeted rate for 2018/19, the actual average rate for the 8-month period between 1 July 2018 and 28 February 2019 and the actual rate as at 28 February 2019; and (c) the vacancy factor applied in estimating the requirements for 2019/20. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed vacancy rates for 2019/20 are: (d) lower than the actual average rate and higher than the actual rate as at 28 February 2019 for international staff, national General Service staff and United Nations Volunteers; (e) lower than the actual average rate and the actual rate as at 28 February 2019 for National Professional Officers; and (f) higher than the actual average rate and the actual rate as at 28 February 2019 for government-provided personnel.

Vacancy rates

(Percentages)

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20	
	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual average vacancy rate for the period from 1 July 2018 to 28 February 2019</i>	<i>Actual vacancy rate as at 28 February 2019</i>	<i>Proposed vacancy rate</i>
International staff	15.0	17.5	17.4	10.9	9.4	10.3
National Professional Officers	20.0	17.7	17.7	16.8	16.3	16.0
National General Service staff	15.0	20.1	19.8	16.9	15.7	16.0
United Nations Volunteers	20.0	18.5	17.5	22.0	17.5	17.8
Temporary positions						
International staff	25.0	–	50.0	50.0	–	14.0
Government-provided personnel	30.0	63.2	63.2	54.6	52.6	58.0

20. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that a total of 244 posts and positions were vacant as at 25 March 2019, including 74 international staff posts, 139 national staff posts and 31 United Nations Volunteer positions. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that as at 25 April 2019, 27 posts (2 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 Field Service, 9 National Professional Officer and 13 national General Service) had been vacant for more than two years.

21. **The Advisory Committee recalls the request of the General Assembly, expressed consistently in its resolutions on peacekeeping budgets, that the Secretary-General ensure that vacant posts be filled expeditiously (A/71/836, para. 108). The Committee also reiterates its view that budgeted vacancy rates should be based, as much as possible, on actual vacancy rates. In cases where the proposed budgeted rates differ from the actual rates at the time of budget preparation, clear justification should be provided in related documents for the rates used (A/70/742, para. 45). The Committee stresses once again that the continuing requirement for posts that have been vacant for two years or longer should be reviewed and the posts either proposed for retention, with rejustification, or abolishment in subsequent budget proposals (A/69/839, para. 67; see also General Assembly resolution 66/264).**

Recommendations on posts and positions

22. A total of 1,922 civilian posts and positions are proposed for 2019/20 (comprising 819 international posts, 2 international temporary positions, 904 national staff posts, including 150 National Professional Officers and 754 national General Service staff and 197 United Nations Volunteers), as well as 19 government-provided personnel. The staffing proposal reflects: (a) the establishment of nine international staff posts (3 P-4, 4 P-3 and 2 Field Service), six national posts (three National Professional Officers and three national General Service positions) and eight United Nations Volunteers; (b) the reclassification of one post of Chief of Transport Officer from the P-4 to the P-5 level; and (c) the redeployment of seven posts (2 Field Service, 4 national General Service and 1 United Nations Volunteer) from service delivery to the Central Passenger Booking Unit of the Movement Control Section.

23. The Secretary-General's proposal includes the establishment of a Strategic Planning Officer (P-4) in the Office of the Chief of Staff. The incumbent would provide support for the preparation of the new United Nations Peacebuilding and Development Assistance Framework cycle for 2024, assist in the implementation of

the integrated strategic framework and the Mission's participation in the roll-out of the comprehensive performance assessment system and support the integrated planning and coordination efforts both within the Mission and in relation to the United Nations country team (see [A/73/760](#), para. 49). The Advisory Committee notes that, at present, the Office of the Chief of Staff comprises 21 posts and positions, including a Strategic Planning Unit staffed with a Senior Planning Officer (P-5) and three Planning Officers (1 P-3 and 2 United Nations Volunteers). The Committee also notes that, as regards integration and coordination, the Mission includes an Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (who is also Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator), staffed with six posts (*ibid.*, table 1 and para. 49). **In the view of the Committee, the existing resources dedicated to planning, coordination and integration should suffice to absorb the additional workload related mainly to the new strategic framework and comprehensive performance assessment system. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of a Strategic Planning Officer (P-4) post. Any operational cost should be adjusted accordingly** (The Committee has provided its observations regarding the resident coordinators in its cross-cutting report on peacekeeping operations [A/73/755](#)).

24. In his report, the Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of a Business Intelligence Unit within the Supply Chain Performance Section, to be staffed with one Business Intelligence Officer (P-3) and one Business Intelligence Assistant (national General Service) post. The Secretary-General indicates that the new unit will improve the Mission's accountability and stewardship of United Nations assets and help address the increased business intelligence and supply chain performance requirements ([A/73/760](#), para. 94). **The Advisory Committee considers that the additional requirements as regards assets management, business intelligence and supply chain performance could be met by the proposed establishment of a new Business Intelligence Officer (P-3) post, but that the related post of assistant is not fully justified, at this stage. Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of the Business Intelligence Assistant post. Any operational cost should be adjusted accordingly.**

25. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 23 and 24 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian staff.

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	<i>Apportioned 2018/19</i>	<i>Proposed 2019/20</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Operational costs	456 820 500	470 211 800	13 391 300

26. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2019/20 amount to \$470,211,800, reflecting an increase of \$13,391,300, or 2.9 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2018/19. The Secretary-General proposes increases under communications and information technology (\$14,142,400), facilities and infrastructure (\$7,604,700), ground transportation (\$3,810,000), other supplies, services and equipment (\$1,867,700) and official travel (\$142,000).

Communications and information technology

27. The proposed resources under communications and information technology for the 2019/20 period amount to \$93,860,800, representing an increase of \$14,142,400, or 17.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for the current period. The proposed

increase is attributable to: (a) the costs associated with increasing the Internet bandwidth of the Mission's infrastructure to support the deployment of new technologies related to camp security; (b) maintenance of equipment and support services with respect to the additional protection systems at the camps in Ménaka, Tessalit and Timbuktu, as well as the expansion of the Mission's secured network; (c) software, licenses and fees with respect to the Mission's secured network; and (d) spare parts for specialized military standard equipment (A/73/760, para. 139).

28. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, since the 2016/17 period, a surveillance system has been deployed in Kidal, with additional operational capacity being added during the current period. Another surveillance system was deployed to Gao during the same period. The Mission has since deployed counter-rocket, artillery and mortar sense-and-warn systems in Aguelhok, Ménaka, Mopti, Tessalit and Timbuktu.

29. While welcoming the efforts to protect United Nations personnel and its assets, the Advisory Committee considers that the proposed increase of \$14,142,400 in the resources for communications and information technology, which follows an increase of \$33,721,100 between the previous and the current period (from an appropriation of \$45,997,300 in 2017/18 to an appropriation of \$79,718,400 in 2018/19), is not fully justified. Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction of \$2,000,000 to the proposed resource requirement for communications and information technology.

Facilities and infrastructure

30. The proposed resources under facilities and infrastructure for 2019/20 amount to \$99,087,300, representing an increase of \$7,604,700, or 8.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for the current period. According to the Secretary-General, the proposed increase is attributable to: (a) increases in fuel prices and projected levels of consumption of petrol, oil and lubricants; (b) airfield maintenance services; (c) maintenance of equipment and infrastructure, particularly in relation to water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants; (d) construction works in new camps in Diabali/Douentza and Mopti, the construction of the Kidal runway and construction works at six major camps; (e) the acquisition of solar street lights and the replacement of generators; (f) the acquisition of water treatment and fuel distribution equipment; and (g) the acquisition of engineering supplies to enhance the physical security of the camps (A/73/760, para. 132).

31. The information provided to the Advisory Committee indicates that the proposed requirements for maintenance services in 2019/20 would amount to \$7,654,900, representing an increase of \$4,550,500, or 146.6 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2018/19. While acknowledging the need for maintenance services, the Committee considers that the increased requirement is not fully justified. In addition, the Committee notes significant fluctuations between the resources budgeted and those expended in the past period for alteration and renovation services (an overexpenditure of \$18,136,100 or 193.3 per cent) and architectural and demolition services (an underexpenditure of \$8,057,200 or 95.9 per cent), and it questions the proposed amount of \$17,822,800 for construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance (representing an increase of \$2,522,600 or 16.5 per cent compared with the appropriation for 2018/19). **In view of the above, the Committee recommends a reduction of \$1,500,000 to the proposed resources for facilities and infrastructure.**

Ground transportation

32. The proposed resources under ground transportation in 2019/20 amount to \$15,649,700, representing an increase of \$3,810,000, or 32.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation for the current period. The proposed increase is attributable to: (a) petrol, oil and lubricants, owing to the increase in the Mission's vehicle fleet; (b) the rental of vehicles in connection with mission support for the national electoral process; (c) the acquisition of vehicle workshop equipment; and (d) the purchase of spare parts.

33. The proposed resources for spare parts amount to \$863,600, representing an increase of \$123,600 or 16.7 per cent compared with the appropriation for the current period. **While acknowledging the severe road conditions in Mali, the Advisory Committee considers that the increased requirement for spare parts is not fully justified and therefore recommends a 5 per cent reduction (or \$43,200) to the proposed requirement for spare parts.**

Air operations

34. The proposed resources under air operations for 2019/20 amount to \$152,468,300, representing a decrease of \$12,953,800, or 7.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation for the current period. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that the reduced requirement is mainly the result of an optimization of fleet composition and the related reduction of two fixed-wing aircraft. The Mission's fleet during the 2019/20 period would comprise 42 aircraft, including 7 fixed-wing aircraft, 6 manned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms and 29 rotary-wing aircraft. The report also indicates that the overall reduction in the cost of air operations has been partially offset by the increase in resource requirements for the Mission's fleet of 10 unmanned aerial systems owing to the termination of one pro bono arrangement (see [A/73/760](#), paras. 103 and 136–137).

Unmanned aerial systems

35. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Government of Germany has been offering, on a pro bono basis, the services of an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform, HERON-1, a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial system, for a period of two years. During the coming period, the Government of Germany has requested reimbursement for the continuation of this service. According to the Secretary-General, the estimated cost of \$6 million that would be required on the basis of a new letter of assist, will still be below the actual operational costs (approximately more than \$30 million per annum). The Committee was also informed that the new letter of assist would probably be signed in April or May 2019, and would be in force until 31 October 2019, with an optional one-year extension. **The Committee welcomes the pro bono contribution made by the Government of Germany and trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

36. On a related matter, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the utilization of eight unmanned aerial systems by the Mission in 2017/18, which showed that the systems were unavailable for periods of time varying from 4.1 per cent to 33.8 per cent of their total period of deployment. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the availability of unmanned aerial systems provided under letters of assist is verified on a monthly basis by the Mission, in coordination with United Nations Headquarters, and that deductions to the invoices are applied when the actual availability rate is lower than the one agreed upon in the relevant letter of assist. In addition, the Committee notes from the information provided that the deployment

date of commercial unmanned aerial vehicles in Kidal, which was scheduled for the current period, remains to be confirmed.

37. Noting the delay in deploying unmanned aerial vehicles in Kidal, the Advisory Committee trusts that updated information will be presented to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to include a detailed analysis of the use of unmanned aerial systems, including information on their efficiency, cost and the lessons learned from their utilization in his next report on MINUSMA.

Official travel

38. The proposed resources under official travel for 2019/20 amount to \$4,088,500, representing an increase of \$142,000, or 3.6 per cent, compared with the apportionment for the 2018/19 period. The requirement includes a provision of \$1,245,700 for travel for training. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it, that only \$361,400 had been expended as at 28 February 2019, against an appropriation of \$1,245,700. **In view of the limited use of the resources to attend training thus far in the 2018/19 period, the Committee recommends a reduction of 5 per cent (or \$62,300) to the proposed travel requirement for training.**

39. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that only 17.3 per cent of official travel in 2017/2018 was undertaken in compliance with the advance ticket purchase policy. **The Committee recalls that the General Assembly, on a number of occasions, has expressed concern at the low rate of compliance with the advance purchase policy directive. The Committee reiterates that more efforts are required, in particular in areas where travel can be better planned (see also [A/73/779](#), para. 16).**

40. Subject to its recommendations contained in paragraphs 23, 24, 29, 31, 33 and 38 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.

Other matters

Quick-impact projects

41. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that since inception of the quick-impact programme in 2014, the Mission has implemented 530 such projects, at a total cost of over \$20 million. It is estimated that these projects have benefited about 1.5 million people. As at 28 March 2019, the Mission has approved 74 projects for the current period in the areas of institutional capacity-building, small community infrastructure and basic needs, income-generating activity and vocational training in the northern and central regions of Mali, at a total cost of \$2.6 million. The Committee was also informed that the average cost of a quick-impact project is \$30,000. The local project review committee, comprising Mission staff and, whenever possible, representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, reviews the submitted projects to assess their compliance with the global quick-impact projects policy, annual Mission guidance and the overall coherence and relevance of the proposals. The Committee was further informed that, in early March 2019, the Mission initiated an internal evaluation of 70 projects implemented between 2014 and 2017 to assess their efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and relevance. The report on the evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of June 2019. **The Committee trusts that detailed information on the quick-impact projects will be included in the next report of the Secretary-General on MINUSMA.**

Environmental initiatives

42. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following information on the pillars of the Mission's environment strategy: (a) in fulfilment of its energy management plan, the Mission has equipped all solar street lights with LED light bulbs, replaced air conditioners with inverters in the camps, introduced the use of solar panels and wind energy as a back-up energy source, installed hybrid power generators and carried out a tree planting campaign; (b) water meters have been installed in all camps and wastewater management plants have been installed in the main camps; in the other camps wastewater is sanitized and the effluents tested before discharging; (c) solid and biomedical wastes are regularly collected and treated, while the recycling of plastics and scrap metals is periodically carried out by local subcontractors; some of the waste is incinerated, and the emissions are regularly monitored; other hazardous wastes are stockpiled in camps awaiting the services of a hazardous waste contractor for which a procurement exercise is ongoing; (d) the Mission monitors all camps and continues awareness raising activities about its environmental mandate and the related requirements for uniformed personnel; and (e) the Mission monitors the impact of its environmental projects on local communities.

43. The Advisory Committee welcomes the measures taken by MINUSMA to implement its environment strategy and encourages the Mission to pursue its efforts in this area.

Gender balance

44. The Advisory Committee was provided with the following table showing a breakdown of MINUSMA personnel by gender. **The Advisory Committee notes the low level of female representation, particularly among national General Service staff and government-provided personnel, and encourages the Mission to increase female representation.**

Civilian personnel by gender as at 30 June 2018

(Percentage)

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
International staff		
P-5 and above	24	76
P-1 to P-4	30	70
Field Service	23	77
National Professional Officers	19	81
National General Service	20	80
United Nations Volunteers	32	68
General temporary assistance		
International staff	100	–
Government-provided personnel	13	87

V. Conclusion

45. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly regarding the financing of MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 are indicated in section VI of the performance report ([A/73/634](#)).

46. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Appropriate an additional amount of \$38,418,800 to the Special Account for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, representing additional resources authorized under the commitment authority which were utilized and not assessed in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018;**

(b) **Taking into account the amount of \$1,048,000,000 already assessed on Member States under the terms of its resolution [71/305](#), apply other revenue in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018 in the total amount of \$15,129,100 from investment revenue (\$8,017,400), other/miscellaneous revenue (\$17,700) and the cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$7,094,000);**

(c) **Assess an additional amount of \$23,289,700, representing the difference between the increase in the appropriation (\$38,418,800) and other revenue (\$15,129,100) for the period ended 30 June 2018.**

47. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly regarding the financing of MINUSMA for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget ([A/73/760](#)). **Taking into account its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by \$3,720,900, from \$1,149,778,800 to \$1,146,057,900. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of \$1,146,057,900 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/634](#))
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/760](#))
- Report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/5 \(Vol. II\)](#), chaps. II and IV)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2018 ([A/73/750](#))
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/776](#))

- Report of the Advisory Committee on the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 ([A/72/850](#))
- Report of the Advisory Committee on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali ([A/72/789/Add.14](#))
- General Assembly resolution [72/297](#) on the financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
- Security Council resolution [2423 \(2018\)](#)