



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 April 2019

Original: English

Seventy-third session

Agenda item 160

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia**Budget performance of the United Nations Mission in
Liberia for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018****Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions**

Appropriation for 2017/18	\$110,000,000
Expenditure for 2017/18	\$109,614,900
Unencumbered balance for 2017/18	\$385,100



I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/692](#)), the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 March 2019. The documents reviewed and those used for background information 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](#)).

2. The mandate of UNMIL was established by the Security Council in its resolution [1509 \(2003\)](#) and extended in subsequent resolutions. By its resolution [2333 \(2016\)](#), the Council decided to extend the mandate for a final period until 30 March 2018 and requested the Secretary-General to complete by 30 April 2018 the withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian UNMIL components, other than those required to complete the Mission's liquidation. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that UNMIL had been closed successfully by 30 June 2018 ([A/73/692](#), para. 4).

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

3. In its resolution [71/304](#), the General Assembly appropriated an amount of \$110,000,000 gross (\$105,323,800 net) for the maintenance of UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Expenditures for the period totalled \$109,614,900 gross (\$104,533,600 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 99.6 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of \$385,100, in gross terms, represents 0.4 per cent of the appropriation, reflecting the combined effect of lower-than-budgeted expenditures under military and police personnel (\$1,967,000, or 8.8 per cent) and operational costs (\$5,618,400, or 17.2 per cent) and higher-than-budgeted expenditures under civilian personnel (\$7,200,300, or 13.1 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/73/692](#)).

4. The budget performance report indicates that, during the 2017/18 period, the amount of \$1,951,900 was redeployed from group I, military and police personnel, and the amount of \$5,285,900 from group III, operational costs, to group II, civilian personnel (a total of \$7,237,800). The increased requirements under civilian personnel are attributable mainly to: (a) under international and national staff, the higher-than-budgeted payments due to staff members at the time of separation from service or relocation to another duty station; and (b) under United Nations Volunteers, the higher-than-budgeted resettlement allowance for separation and repatriation (*ibid.*, paras. 64–65 and 71–73).

5. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, with regard to outstanding claims to troop- and police-contributing countries, a number of claims were currently being processed by Headquarters, in close consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, regarding the repatriated military and police contingents.

6. The Advisory Committee was provided upon enquiry with table 1, which shows the financial position as at 16 February 2019. Paragraph 88 of the report of the Secretary-General indicates that the net cash shortfall does not permit the return to Member States of the credits due to them from the period ended 30 June 2018.

Table 1

Summary of financial position as at 16 February 2019

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
I. Cash assets	4 794.0
II. Cash requirements (liabilities)	
Contributions received in advance	158.5
Unliquidated obligations, including prior-period obligations	3 549.4
Other accounts payable and liabilities	1 629.8
Subtotal, II	5 337.7
III. Net cash available (I less II)	(543.7)
IV. Credits due to Member States for the period ended 30 June 2018	
(a) Unencumbered balance	385.1
(b) Other revenue	
Investment revenue	678.5
Other/miscellaneous revenue	2 708.9
Cancellation of prior-period obligations	2 842.2
Subtotal, other revenue	6 229.6
Total credits due to Member States (a)+(b)	6 614.7
V. Cash surplus/(shortfall) (III less IV)	(7 158.4)
Contributions outstanding from Member States	11 525.6

7. From information provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that there was overexpenditure under a number of budget lines, including civilian personnel, official travel, ground transportation and information technology. **The Committee reiterates its expectation that the Secretariat will more closely analyse costing assumptions associated with closing missions to provide a more realistic budgeting methodology for future missions undergoing drawdown and liquidation (see [A/72/853](#), para. 9). The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that relevant departments and support structures are involved with the monitoring and oversight of the liquidation process in missions from an early stage.**

8. The Advisory Committee also notes from information provided to it that, under rental of premises, facilities and infrastructure, an increase in expenditure in the amount of \$589,000 (59.6 per cent) is reflected. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the variance was attributable to the delayed handover of the Mission's headquarters in Monrovia to the United Nations country team due to the volatility of the liquidation process. **The Committee considers that the Secretary-General should provide more information to the General Assembly on the reasons for the delayed handover of the premises at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

9. Regarding the disposal of assets, the Advisory Committee was provided upon enquiry with table 2.

Table 2

Disposal methods of ground vehicles and generators during the UNMIL liquidation period

Quantity of assets	Disposal method				Total
	Commercial sale	Sale at nominal value to UNDP	Assets gifted ^a	Written off	
Ground vehicles ^b	203	17	163	6	389
Generators	30	7	69	12	118
Total	233	24	232	18	507

Abbreviation: UNDP, United Nations Development Programme.

^a Assets were gifted in line with financial rule 105.23 (e).

^b Includes heavy, medium and light vehicles and trailers.

The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide information to the General Assembly on the dates of transfers of the gifted assets, to ensure the application of rule 105.23 (e) of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in future performance reports and reports on the disposal of assets disaggregated information for assets disposed of before and after the liquidation period, if any (see also A/73/755 and A/73/854).

10. With respect to national staff, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that UNMIL implemented a national staff capacity-building programme, including courses on vocational skills, entrepreneurial skills, information technology, logistics and transport management, supply chain, procurement management, international relations and monitoring and evaluation. The Mission also organized four job fairs and an entrepreneurial fair for national staff. **The Committee commends the Mission on its capacity-building programme for national staff and encourages the implementation of similar programmes for future closing missions.**

11. On the environmental aspects of liquidation, paragraph 25 of the report states that the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia independently inspected sites as remediation activities were undertaken by UNMIL, and provided certified clearance prior to the handover and closure of sites. Upon enquiry as to the process for clearance, the Advisory Committee was informed that a joint inspection of each site would be conducted with representatives from the host Government and the ministry of environment, following which a clearance certificate for the site would be signed by the representative from the ministry. After the clearance of all sites, environment clearance for the peacekeeping mission as a whole would then be obtained. The Committee was further informed that the Mission contracted the service of high-temperature incinerators for a more cost-effective and efficient method of asset disposal and environmental clean-up. **The Committee notes the actions taken to ensure an environmentally responsible closure of the Mission.**

12. In respect of lessons learned from the liquidation of UNMIL, including on its headquarters premises, the Pan African Plaza building, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that lessons learned had been incorporated into the Guide for Senior Leadership on Field Entity Closure. The major lessons learned included the need to be prepared to liquidate on short notice, to develop realistic and well-

structured closure plans, and to assess the sequencing and capacity required to undertake the closure and to develop a transition strategy with the United Nations country team and other key actors. **The Committee trusts that lessons learned will continue to be collected with every mission closure and incorporated into guidance documents as appropriate.**

III. Conclusion

13. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly regarding the financing of UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 are indicated in section VI of the performance report ([A/73/692](#)). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Take note of the total amount of \$6,614,700, comprising the unencumbered balance of \$385,100 with respect to the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and other revenue for the period ended 30 June 2018 amounting to \$678,500 from investment revenue, other miscellaneous revenue (\$2,708,900) and cancellation of prior-period obligations (\$2,842,200);**

(b) **Defer until consideration by the General Assembly of the final performance report of the Mission a decision on the treatment of the total amount of \$6,614,700 indicated in subparagraph (a) above.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/692](#))
- Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/5 \(Vol. II\)](#))
- 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 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 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 Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 ([A/72/839](#))
- General Assembly resolution [71/304](#)
- Security Council resolution [2333 \(2016\)](#)