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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hicham **Oussihamou** (Morocco)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia” and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 36th and 41st meetings, on 13 May and 3 July 2019. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) 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](#));

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/73/855](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.49](#)

4. At its 41st meeting, on 3 July, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia” ([A/C.5/73/L.49](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Georgia.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.49](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

¹ [A/C.5/73/SR.36](#) and [A/C.5/73/SR.41](#).



III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia¹ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,²

Recalling Security Council resolution [1497 \(2003\)](#) of 1 August 2003, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support the transitional government and to assist in the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement in Liberia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution [1509 \(2003\)](#) of 19 September 2003, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Liberia for a period of 12 months, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution [2333 \(2016\)](#) of 23 December 2016, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission 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 components, other than those required to complete the liquidation of the Mission,

Recalling further its resolution [58/315](#) of 1 July 2004,

Recalling its resolution [58/261 A](#) of 23 December 2003 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution [72/296](#) of 5 July 2018, as well as its decision [72/558](#) of 5 July 2018,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and [55/235](#) of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia as at 30 April 2019, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 12.8 million United States dollars, representing some 0.2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 141 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

¹ [A/73/692](#).

² [A/73/855](#).

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,² and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

4. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to draw on lessons learned and best practices for future drawdowns and closures;

5. *Welcomes* the capacity-building programme for national staff, and encourages the Secretary-General to implement similar programmes for future closing missions;

6. *Stresses* the important contribution of experienced staff, in particular the national staff, during the drawdown and the liquidation of the Mission;

7. *Encourages* the Mission to continue to assist national staff in their transition to future professional careers outside the Mission, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify the optimal level of personnel resources and corresponding skill sets necessary to effectively and efficiently draw down and liquidate a closing mission, taking into consideration the experience of existing personnel;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to more closely analyse costing assumptions associated with closing missions to provide a more realistic budgeting methodology for future missions undergoing drawdown and liquidation, and 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;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to identify and address on time and in full all the residual activities, including unforeseen liabilities identified after the closure of the Mission, and stresses the importance of informing contractors of the settlement of any residual claims;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General in future mission liquidation plans to include a risk assessment, mitigation measures and, in the case of theft, appropriate steps to recover stolen assets, and to ensure that the relevant staff and financial regulations and rules are applied in any future cases of loss or theft of assets;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to reduce the overall environmental footprint of the Mission in cooperation with the Liberian authorities, and stresses the necessity to further ensure that all relevant measures are taken in line with the respective regulations and rules in order to ensure an environmentally responsible closure of the Mission;

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

13. *Takes note* 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;¹

14. *Also takes note* of the amount of 6,614,700 dollars comprising the unencumbered balance of 385,100 dollars in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, as well as the other revenue and adjustments in the amount of 6,229,600 dollars in respect of the same period, and decides to defer action thereon until it considers the final performance report of the Mission;

15. *Further takes note* of the amount of 405,100 dollars representing the increase in estimated staff assessment revenue in respect of the financial period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, and decides to defer action thereon until it considers the final performance report of the Mission;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia”.
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