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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Assessment of the Police Division

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the Police Division ([A/74/223](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 28 October 2019.
2. In its resolution [72/262](#) C, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to assess the functions, structure, capacity and level of the Police Division in the context of the reform of the peace and security pillar ([A/74/223](#), para. 1).

II. Report of the Secretary-General

3. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that United Nations police provide, for example, interim law enforcement as mandated and strategic advice on establishing or reforming law enforcement institutions; protect civilians and support the re-establishment of law and order; deliver community-oriented policing initiatives; support the development of election security plans; provide on-the-job training and mentoring; deliver capacity-building programmes; develop and implement joint programmes with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and with other multilateral organizations such as the African Union and the European Union; and advise Governments, regional organizations and regional offices of the United Nations on measures to counter transnational threats with law enforcement tools (*ibid.*, para. 9). **The Advisory Committee recognizes the important contributions being made by United Nations police to United Nations peace operations.**
4. The Secretary-General states that the peace and security and development and management reforms have changed the overall scope of responsibilities for United Nations policing. He also states that the Division, recognized as the system-wide



service provider, is responsible and accountable for supporting Member States and the entire Organization on policing in mission and non-mission settings, within the broader range of the activities carried out by the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions. He further indicates that the new framework for the activities of the Division represents a significant shift in the operating model for United Nations police, as it was previously accountable only for supporting peacekeeping operations and remains resourced solely for that task (ibid., paras. 2 and 13).

5. The Secretary-General indicates that, in mission and non-mission settings, police advisers could be placed in the offices of resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, with the Global Focal Point arrangement acting as a single entry point for host Governments. In addition, the Standing Police Capacity would become an even more important tool in delivering the Division's mandate as the system-wide service provider (ibid., paras. 23 and 25). The Advisory Committee notes the functions currently being performed in the context of the Global Focal Point arrangement. Upon enquiry as to the mandate for the Division to be a system-wide service provider, the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General had reaffirmed the concept in his report issued under the symbol [A/72/772](#), where he foresaw a system-wide service provider role for the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions and, consequently, the Division, and had further contextualized the idea in his report on United Nations policing ([S/2018/1183](#)). The Committee notes that, in its resolution [2382 \(2017\)](#), the Security Council encouraged the Secretariat to assess issues concerning the functions, structure and capacity of the Division in consultation with Member States. **The Advisory Committee requested, but did not receive, sufficient clarification as to the mandate for the Division to be a system-wide service provider, in particular with respect to the resident coordinator system, and requests that more information be provided to the General Assembly.**

6. With respect to the functions of the Division, the Secretary-General indicates that its oversight and evaluation capacity should be strengthened, along with the liaison capacity on policing with other regional offices and organizations, and that additional capacity in the Office of the Police Adviser would also be required. It is suggested that greater capacity in evaluation and oversight, training, planning, policy, police reform and specialized expertise in areas such as serious and organized crime, along with resources for travel to facilitate rapid deployments and assess performance, are essential to match the growing demands for specialized police support ([A/74/223](#), paras. 33–34 and 42).

7. The Secretary-General states that a proposal will also be considered, in the context of the support account, for resourcing a dedicated team of police experts to coordinate the deployment of specialized expertise, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other partners, to tackle serious and organized crime and associated crimes. The Department of Peace Operations will also review functions in the Division in limited strategic areas that require unique combinations of expertise and experience in order to optimize the use of non-seconded Professional civilian experts; the findings will be reported in the context of the support account budget for the period 2020/21 (ibid., paras. 26 and 35).

8. In paragraph 39 of the report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Division is headed by the United Nations Police Adviser and Director of the Police Division, a Director-level position, and proposes that Police Adviser be additionally designated as the deputy to the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions and included in all United Nations system forums, discussions and meetings that involve policing and law enforcement matters relating to the peace and security pillar.

9. In terms of funding for the system-wide service provider concept, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Division was still assessing options based on a clear delineation between activities within and outside peacekeeping and special political missions, although attaining limited core resources from the regular budget for non-mission settings would be essential, with the expectation that entities requesting assistance would assume some of the costs. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that, while the report did not have direct budgetary implications per se at that point, it could give rise to financial implications under the support account for 2020/21 or 2021/22 and the programme budget for 2020. **The Advisory Committee will examine any related financial implications when submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for its consideration in future budget proposals.**

III. Conclusion

10. The General Assembly is requested to take note of the report of the Secretary-General. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that taking note of the policy proposals contained in the report might influence proposals with budgetary implications submitted in future reports of the Secretary-General.

11. **Subject to its comments and observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.**
