



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 March 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 148

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

Triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

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 triennial review of the rates and standards for reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment ([A/74/698](#)) and the report of the 2020 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment ([A/74/689](#)). During its consideration of the reports, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with written responses received on 9 March 2020.

2. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [54/19 B](#), the 2020 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment, comprising 215 technical, financial and medical experts from 56 Member States, met from 20 to 31 January 2020 to conduct a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates and to update the major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services categories.

II. Financial implications of the triennial review

3. The Secretary-General states in his report that key outcomes from the 2020 Working Group include the introduction of buddy first aid kits, field medical assistance kits and mobile surgical modules; reimbursement for the extended deployments of military and police units in temporary operating bases; expanding the categories of ageing equipment eligible for rotation at United Nations expense; strengthening the provision of environmental management by adding generator synchronization panels and berms for generator foundations; and the inclusion of new



major equipment, including two types of unmanned aerial systems (micro and mini) and explosive ordnance disposal capabilities (A/74/698, para. 5).

4. The estimated financial implications of the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group are set out in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations, with effect from 1 July 2020, additional resources estimated at \$6,027,520 would be required for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the calculation of estimated financial implications (see the annex to the present report). The Committee requested but did not receive an adequate explanation of the differences between the figures in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General and those in the annex to the present report. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide additional clarification to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

5. The Advisory Committee was further informed upon enquiry that the table on mission factors in the annex to the present report included only the missions for which open-source geospatial data were available. The Committee was also informed that, if approved by the General Assembly, a survey of the mission factors, relying on robust geospatial data and analysis, would be undertaken for each of the applicable field missions.

III. Other matters

6. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Working Group agreed to the introduction of synchronized generator banks with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 8528 generators instead of optimum-sized single generators, increasing efficiency by at least 10 per cent (A/74/698, para. 12). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in future reports more information on the quantitative and/or qualitative benefits related to the recommendations of the Working Group. The Committee also recommends that the Secretary-General provide information on the efficiencies related to synchronized generator banks to the Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

7. Upon enquiry as to memorandums of understanding, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as a rule, no reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment was undertaken until the related memorandum of understanding was signed. In urgent situations, units were deployed prior to the conclusion of negotiations on the memorandum of understanding, in which case the unit would be reimbursed only for personnel and the troop- or police-contributing country would be retroactively reimbursed for contingent-owned equipment following signature of the memorandum of understanding. Deductions from personnel reimbursement on account of absent or unserviceable contingent-owned equipment were also applied. The Committee was also informed that, at present, 337 units were deployed to peacekeeping missions and 17 memorandums of understanding were under negotiation. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the memorandums of understanding under negotiation will be concluded expeditiously.**

8. With respect to the next Working Group, the Secretary-General indicates in his report that the Chair of the 2020 Working Group proposed, in his letter to the Chair of the Fifth Committee, that a pre-session organizational meeting of the 2023 Working Group be convened, as was the practice for the 2020 Working Group. The pre-session organizational meeting would be convened in the fall immediately prior to the January meetings of the 2023 Working Group to elect members of the Bureau, propose the

creation of sub-working groups, decide on the allocation of agenda items and adopt the provisional programme of work. The Secretary-General also indicates that the Secretariat suggests that the pre-session organizational meeting be held in November 2022 ([A/74/698](#), para. 57). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the total cost of convening the pre-session organizational meeting of the 2020 Working Group, on 21 November 2019, had amounted to \$12,733.

9. **Taking into account the past practice of the Working Group, and noting that the pre-session organizational meeting would allow for the efficient use of the time of the Working Group, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposal of the Chair of the 2020 Working Group to convene a pre-session organizational meeting of the 2023 Working Group in November 2022.**

IV. Conclusion

10. In paragraph 58 of his report, the Secretary-General sets out the actions to be taken by the General Assembly. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the recommendations of the 2020 Working Group, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/74/698](#)).**

Annex

Breakdown of the calculation of the estimated financial implications of the recommendations of the Working Group

A. Annual impact of additional explosive ordnance disposal/improvised explosive device disposal equipment

1. All items referred to in attachment 3 to the report of the 2020 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment ([A/74/689](#)) are currently deployed. The following two items are new equipment that are needed in field missions but are yet to be deployed:

- (a) Personal dosimeters (included in the portable digital X-ray system);
- (b) Explosives field identification kits (included in improvised explosive device disposal toolkits).

2. The estimated annual financial implications of the deployment of the two items are set out in table 1 below.

Table 1

Estimated annual financial implications of the deployment of personal dosimeters and explosives field identification kits

<i>Item description</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Monthly wet lease</i>	<i>Annual impact (United States dollars)</i>
Personal dosimeters	12	20 (for two dosimeters)	2 880
Explosives field identification kits	12	33	4 752
Total			7 632

B. Annual impact of deploying helicopter landing site kits

3. Under the Working Group recommendation, helicopter landing site kits will apply to, inter alia, independent infantry companies, quick reaction forces, special forces companies and force reserve companies. For battalions, two helicopter landing site kits are to be provided and one helicopter landing site kit should be provided for each company-sized unit and for level 1 medical facilities. For other types of units (equal to or less in strength than a company), one helicopter landing site kit should be provided.

4. On the basis of current deployments, the number of helicopter landing site kits required to be deployed is 79, assuming that the recommendations are approved.

5. The estimated annual financial implications of the deployment of the helicopter landing site kits are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2

Estimated annual financial implications of the deployment of helicopter landing site kits

<i>Item description</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Monthly wet lease</i>	<i>Annual impact (United States dollars)</i>
Helicopter landing site kits	79	47	44 556

C. Annual impact of deployment of micro and mini unmanned aircraft systems

6. The cost of the mini and micro unmanned aircraft systems currently deployed under letters of assist (seven items) is \$215,448.
7. The total expected annual rate of reimbursement, based on the recommendation of the Working Group, is \$214,284.
8. The estimated annual financial implication expected from including the mini and micro unmanned aircraft systems as contingency-owned equipment items is a decrease of \$194.

D. Annual impact of deploying buddy first aid kits

9. The Working Group recommended that one complete buddy first aid kit must be carried by each contingent member.
10. The recommended monthly rate of reimbursement, as shown in attachment 12 to the Working Group report, is \$2.69 per person.
11. On the basis of the current deployment of about 80,000 troops, the estimated total annual cost of deploying the kit is \$2,582,400.

E. Annual impact of deploying field medical assistance kits

12. The Working Group recommended that one field medical assistance kit be deployed per company-sized unit, with the exact requirements to be determined at memorandum of understanding negotiations, based on the operating conditions.
13. The recommended monthly rate of reimbursement, on the basis of the information contained in attachment 15 to the Working Group report, is \$49 per set per unit.
14. On the basis of the current deployment of about 300 units, the estimated total annual cost of deploying the kit is \$176,400.

F. Annual impact of deploying cardiac troponin

15. The Working Group recommended the addition of cardiac troponin tests as a mandatory requirement for all laboratory items in all laboratory facilities in both level 2 and level 3 facilities, as part of the major equipment reimbursement rate.
16. The addition of one set (of 10 tests) would result in a \$1.85 increase in the monthly dry lease rates of the relevant facilities.
17. On the basis of current deployments (24 facilities), the estimated total annual cost of deploying the test is \$533.

G. Annual impact of deploying the light mobile surgical module

18. The Working Group recommended the addition of the light mobile surgical module as a new requirement.
19. The recommended monthly rate of reimbursement, on the basis of the information contained in attachment 18 to the Working Group report, is \$12,900.

20. On the basis of expected deployments (two modules in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali), the estimated total annual costs of deploying the module is \$309,600.

H. Annual impact of the increase in reimbursement rate for Internet access

21. The Working Group recommended that the generic monthly reimbursement rate for Internet access under self-sustainment be increased from \$3.16 to \$4.00.

22. On the basis of current deployments of about 80,000 troops, the increase would result in an estimated additional annual cost of \$806,400.

I. Annual impact of the review of procedures for determining mission factors

23. The Working Group recommended a new methodology for the calculation of mission factors.

24. The difference in the costs of the currently used methodology and the recommended methodology is set out in table 3 below.

Table 3

Difference in the costs of the currently used methodology and the recommended methodology for calculating mission factors

Mission	Mission factors					Estimated financial implications (United States dollars)
	Extreme environmental conditions (percentage)		Logistics and road conditions (percentage)		Hostile action and forced abandonment (no change)	
	Current	Recommended	Current	Recommended	Current	
UNAMID	2.60	1.76	3.80	3.80	3.70	(274 533.22)
UNISFA	2.20	1.07	2.10	2.70	3.40	(176 792.80)
UNMISS	2.50	2.29	2.90	3.10	5.30	(15 536.41)
MINUSCA	2.10	2.86	3.80	3.10	5.00	89 768.42
MINUSMA	2.40	2.64	3.30	3.80	5.40	1 151 636.39
MONUSCO	1.80	3.06	2.90	2.50	4.70	1 159 689.91
UNIFIL	0.60	0.64	0.80	0.90	3.70	152 100.68
UNFICYP	0	0.11	0	0	1.70	906.80
Total						2 087 239.77

Abbreviations: UNAMID, African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur; UNISFA, United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei; UNMISS, United Nations Mission in South Sudan; MINUSCA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic; MINUSMA, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali; MONUSCO, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; UNIFIL, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; UNFICYP, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.