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**Proposed programme budget for 2022**

## **Proposed programme budget for 2022**

### **Part II**

#### **Political affairs**

### **Section 3**

#### **Political affairs**

##### **Special political missions**

##### **Thematic cluster III: regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions**

#### **Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2022**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions that contains the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for thematic cluster III: regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General and received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 17 August 2021.

2. In addendum 1 to section 3, Political affairs, of his report on the proposed programme budget for 2022 ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)), the Secretary-General provides an overview of the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for 38 special political missions and related cross-cutting issues. Detailed information in respect of each special political mission is contained in five addenda to section 3 of the proposed programme budget.<sup>1</sup> The addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic

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<sup>1</sup> [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.2](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.3](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.5](#) and [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#).



clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

3. The resource requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar (cluster I), whose mandate emanates from the General Assembly, are included in the report of the Secretary-General under cluster I, in order to consolidate the overall resource requirements for all special political missions, while the mandate of the Office will be brought to the attention of the Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

4. As at 4 October 2021, the Advisory Committee had received information from the Secretary-General on the implications of Security Council resolution [2596 \(2021\)](#), in which the Council decided to extend the mandate of UNAMA for six months, until 17 March 2022. The Secretariat considers that, regardless of some adjustments in the implementation, the proposed budget for 2022 for UNAMA, as currently submitted, remains applicable for mandate delivery and operations in 2022. Should there be changes to the mandate of the Mission during the next review by the Council, the Secretariat, after an assessment, will then prepare and submit a revised estimates report as soon as possible, at either the resumed parts of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly or the main part of its seventy-seventh session.

5. The Advisory Committee addresses issues of a cross-cutting nature pertaining to special political missions in its main report ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)), while its specific comments and recommendations relating to the budget proposals for thematic clusters I to III, UNAMA and UNAMI are presented in separate related reports.<sup>2</sup>

6. In addition, for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (thematic cluster III), the Secretary-General indicates in his report that, in its resolutions [2570 \(2021\)](#) and [2574 \(2021\)](#), respectively, the Security Council expanded the mandates of the two Missions to new areas of work. Owing to the timing of the resolutions, which were adopted on 16 April and 11 May 2021, respectively, the Secretariat is still assessing the resource implications of implementing the additional mandated activities and will present proposals at a later stage, through the established procedures, as necessary ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), paras. 248 and 281). Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Council had adopted resolution [2579 \(2021\)](#) on 3 June 2021, in which it requested the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) (cluster III) to prioritize support to ceasefire monitoring in Darfur, which will give rise to additional resource requirements. The Committee notes that, if submitted by the Secretary-General, the proposals for further resources for the three Missions would represent additional resource requirements over the level of the proposed programme budget for 2022. The Committee's comments and recommendations pertaining to those proposals would be contained in its separate related reports.

## II. Budget performance for 2020 and 2021 and resource requirements for 2022

7. The proposed resource requirements for 2022 for the 11 special political missions under thematic cluster III, compared with the approved resources for 2021 and the expenditure for 2020, are summarized in table 1.

<sup>2</sup> [A/76/7/Add.2](#), [A/76/7/Add.3](#), [A/76/7/Add.4](#), [A/76/7/Add.5](#) and [A/76/7/Add.6](#).

**Table 1**  
**Summary of resource requirements for thematic cluster III**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Mission	2020		2021		2022		Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, (January–June)	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	2022 vs. 2021 increase/decrease
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		(7)=(5)-(3)
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	12 611.3	12 399.6	13 950.0	6 411.0	14 777.3	–	827.3
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	104 878.2	102 193.4	103 438.1	48 864.9	99 160.0	–	(4 278.1)
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	2 901.4	2 859.5	2 865.0	1 569.6	2 927.2	–	62.2
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	3 458.0	3 431.6	3 638.4	1 718.5	3 620.0	–	(18.4)
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	8 953.6	8 826.0	9 698.6	4 284.7	9 586.6	–	(112.0)
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	7 129.0	7 165.1	7 901.7	3 682.3	8 611.7	–	710.0
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	72 440.5	71 579.7	69 244.1	33 761.6	70 494.4	–	1 250.3
United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	61 327.5	59 301.6	62 942.5	33 929.2	60 669.7	–	(2 272.8)
United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement	51 642.7	46 712.4	48 569.2	13 582.6	45 559.1	–	(3 010.1)
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	20 114.2	19 933.8	19 271.6	9 975.5	21 936.2	–	2 664.6
United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan <sup>a</sup>	–	1 420.0	34 070.4	7 628.9	45 596.7	417.5	11 526.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>345 456.4</b>	<b>335 822.7</b>	<b>375 589.6</b>	<b>165 408.7</b>	<b>382 938.9</b>	<b>417.5</b>	<b>7 349.3</b>

<sup>a</sup> The Advisory Committee notes the commitment authority for UNITAMS in 2020, which is currently being reviewed in the context of the financial performance report (A/76/347).

8. The resources proposed for 2022 for the missions grouped under thematic cluster III amount to \$382,938,900, representing an increase of \$7,349,300, or 2.0 per cent, compared with the resources approved for 2021. The main factors contributing to the variances between the approved resources for 2021 and the proposed resources for 2022 are contained in the main report of the Secretary-General. A summary of the main factors contributing to the variances between the approved resources and the proposed resources for missions under thematic cluster III is contained in table 6 of the main report of the Secretary-General (A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1).

9. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon enquiry, with further information on the cluster III expenditure for 2020 and 2021 shown in table 1. The overall expenditure for 2020 amounted to \$335,822,700 against an appropriation of \$345,456,400, reflecting an underexpenditure of \$9,633,400, or an implementation rate of 97.2 per cent. As at 30 June 2021, expenditure amounted to \$165,408,700

against an appropriation of \$375,589,600, reflecting a 44.0 per cent implementation rate. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on expenditure for 2021 to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

## **A. Comments and recommendations on personnel matters**

### **1. Military and police personnel**

10. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for the 11 special political missions under thematic cluster III for 2022 amount to \$31,351,300, reflecting an increase of \$601,000, or 2.0 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$30,750,300 for 2021. The variance is mainly attributable to the additional requirements of \$379,700 in UNSMIL, \$312,600 in UNITAMS and \$188,600 in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), offset by a reduction of \$305,500 under the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), tables 13, 36, 48, 63).

**11. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for military and police personnel for 2022 for the special political missions under thematic cluster III.**

### **2. Civilian personnel**

12. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a table showing positions approved for 2021 and proposed staffing requirements for 2022 for the missions under thematic cluster III (see table 2). Staffing changes are also summarized in annex XVII to the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)).

Table 2

**Thematic cluster III: staffing requirements by mission**

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Approved for 2021</i>	<i>Vacant as at 30 June 2021</i>	<i>Proposed for 2022</i>	<i>New positions</i>	<i>Abolishment</i>	<i>Conversion</i>	<i>Reclassification</i>	<i>Reassignment</i>	<i>Redeployment/ relocation</i>
<b>Cluster III</b>									
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	75 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 14 P-4, 10 P-3, 1 P-2, 6 FS, 9 NPO, 22 LL)	17 (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 5 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 FS, 2 NPO, 5 LL)	75 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 14 P-4, 10 P-3, 1 P-2, 6 FS, 9 NPO, 22 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	362 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 30 P-5, 50 P-4, 39 P-3, 57 FS, 92 NPO, 45 LL, 38 UNV)	89 (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 8 P-4, 14 P-3, 7 FS, 23 NPO, 12 LL, 21 UNV)	335 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 8 D-1, 29 P-5, 51 P-4, 39 P-3, 57 FS, 84 NPO, 45 LL, 18 UNV)	3 (1 D-1, 2 P-3)	30 (2 P-3, 8 NPO, 20 UNV)	1 P-3 from general temporary assistance to regular	1 P-5 to 1 P-4	1 P-3	—
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	—	30 (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 4 NPO, 18 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	11 (2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	1 P-4	11 (2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 FS, 2 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	82 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 7 FS, 5 NPO, 58 LL)	8 (2 P-4, 1 FS, 1 NPO, 4 LL)	82 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 6 P-4, 1 P-3, 7 FS, 5 NPO, 58 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	48 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 5 P-5, 12 P-4, 6 P-3, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 11 LL)	10 (3 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 FS, 1 NPO, 2 LL)	48 (1 USG, 2 D-1, 5 P-5, 12 P-4, 6 P-3, 7 FS, 4 NPO, 11 LL)	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	314 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 7 D-1, 13 P-5, 35 P-4, 29 P-3, 2 P-2, 120 FS, 1 GS (OL), 14 NPO, 84 LL, 6 UNV)	91 (2 P-5, 11 P-4, 12 P-3, 2 P-2, 23 FS, 8 NPO, 31 LL, 2 UNV)	316 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 7 D-1, 14 P-5, 34 P-4, 30 P-3, 2 P-2, 119 FS, 3 GS (OL), 14 NPO, 84 LL, 6 UNV)	2 (1 P-5, 1 GS (OL))	—	—	2 (1 P-4 to 1 P-3, 1 FS to GS (OL))	7 (1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-1, 1 P-3, 2 FS)	13 (4 P-5, 1 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 NPO, 1 FS, 1 LL)

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Approved for 2021</i>	<i>Vacant as at 30 June 2021</i>	<i>Proposed for 2022</i>	<i>New positions</i>	<i>Abolishment</i>	<i>Conversion</i>	<i>Reclassification</i>	<i>Reassignment</i>	<i>Redeployment/relocation</i>
United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	451 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 22 P-5, 38 P-4, 46 P-3, 1 P-2, 45 FS, 1 GS (OL), 78 NPO, 80 LL, 131 UNV)	106 (2 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 17 P-3, 1 P-2, 13 FS, 19 NPO, 16 LL, 33 UNV)	453 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 22 P-5, 37 P-4, 46 P-3, 1 P-2, 44 FS, 1 GS (OL), 80 NPO, 82 LL, 131 UNV)	3 (2 NPO, 1 LL)	1 P-4	1 FS to LL	—	—	—
United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement	159 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 10 P-4, 21 P-3, 1 P-2, 33 FS, 5 NPO, 80 LL)	77 (2 P-5, 4 P-4, 16 P-3, 11 FS, 4 NPO, 40 LL)	165 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 11 P-4, 20 P-3, 1 P-2, 36 FS, 8 NPO, 80 LL)	6 (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 3 FS)	—	3 P-3 to NPO	—	10 (3 P-3, 1 NPO, 6 LL)	28 (2 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 5 FS, 3 NPO, 11 LL)
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	114 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 8 P-5, 19 P-4, 11 P-3, 1 P-2, 17 FS, 2 GS (OL), 21 NPO, 28 LL)	22 (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 5 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 FS, 2 GS (OL), 1 NPO, 6 LL)	110 (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 5 D-1, 8 P-5, 19 P-4, 11 P-3, 1 P-2, 17 FS, 2 GS (OL), 17 NPO, 28 LL)	—	4 NPO	—	—	—	—
United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan	269 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-2, 4 D-1, 18 P-5, 31 P-4, 29 P-3, 3 P-2, 51 FS, 1 GS (OL), 48 NPO, 69 LL, 11 UNV)	178 (1 D-2, 2 D-1, 8 P-5, 17 P-4, 14 P-3, 2 P-2, 25 FS, 37 NPO, 62 LL, 10 UNV)	270 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 2 D-2, 4 D-1, 18 P-5, 32 P-4, 29 P-3, 2 P-2, 46 FS, 1 GS (OL), 50 NPO, 73 LL, 11 UNV)	1 P-4	—	6 (1 P-2 to 1 NPO, 1 FS to 1 NPO, 4 FS to 4 LL)	—	1 LL	—

*Abbreviations:* ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; FS, Field Service; GS (OL), General Service (Other level); LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General; UNV, United Nations Volunteer.

13. Overall, the Secretary-General proposes 1,895 positions for 2022 for the 11 missions under thematic cluster III, representing a net reduction of 20 positions compared with 2021 (1,915 positions). Staffing changes for 2022 are proposed for 6 of the 11 missions, namely UNSOM (see paras. 16–19 below), UNSMIL (see paras. 22–27 below), the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, UNMHA (see paras. 28–32 below), the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and UNITAMS. No staffing changes are proposed for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (see para. 20 below) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) (see para. 21 below).

*Mine action programme manager positions in the field*

14. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that, in response to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors and to strengthen its programme delivery and oversight, the Mine Action Service is proposing that the heads of mine action components in the four field operations (1 D-1 in UNSOM, 1 P-5 in UNSMIL, 1 P-4 in UNMHA and 1 P-4 in UNITAMS) be deployed on Secretariat contracts for 2022 (to be reflected in each Mission's staffing table, rather than under non-post resources through the current arrangement with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)). Resources for staff working in field mine action programmes will continue to be budgeted under non-post resources through partnership with UNOPS ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), paras. 69, 245, 319 and 410; see also [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#), paras. 112–115).

15. The Advisory Committee was provided with information comparing the standard costs and UNOPS contracts. With respect to potential financial implications for 2022, the Committee was informed that, if the General Assembly decided against the approval of the four new positions, there would be an increase of \$664,000 to the proposed programme budget for 2022, representing the removal of \$523,400 proposed under civilian personnel costs (reflecting a 50 per cent incumbency rate budgeted for 2022) and the reinstatement of \$1,187,400 under operational costs (other supplies, services and equipment through UNOPS) (see also [A/76/7/Add.1](#), tables 4 and 5). The Committee was also provided with the information in tables 3 and 4 below and notes the resources allocated to UNOPS for 2021 in the amount of \$4,604,000 by the four cluster III missions and the proposed resources for 2022 for demining services in the amount of \$4,659,500. The Committee discusses the matter further in its main report ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

Table 3

**Financial agreements for 2021 with the United Nations Office for Project Services**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Special political mission</i>	<i>Personnel</i>			<i>Non-personnel</i>				<i>Total, financial agreements for 2021 with UNOPS</i>
	<i>Programme management</i>	<i>Other personnel</i>	<i>Subtotal, personnel</i>	<i>Operating costs</i>	<i>Direct costs fee</i>	<i>Indirect costs fee</i>	<i>Subtotal, non-personnel</i>	
UNSOM	299.1	567.0	866.1	20.8	26.6	45.7	93.1	959.2
UNSMIL	250.7	1 224.5	1 475.2	47.2	45.7	78.4	171.3	1 646.5
UNMHA	242.3	—	242.3	4.0	7.4	12.7	24.1	266.4
UNITAMS	153.01	53.4	206.4	1 395.0	48.0	82.5	1 525.5	1 731.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>945.1</b>	<b>1 844.9</b>	<b>2 790.0</b>	<b>1 467.0</b>	<b>127.7</b>	<b>219.3</b>	<b>1 814.0</b>	<b>4 604.0</b>

Table 4  
**Proposed resources for 2022 for demining services**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Special political mission</i>	<i>Personnel</i>			<i>Non-personnel</i>			<i>Total, resources for 2022 for demining services</i>
	<i>Secretariat</i>	<i>UNOPS</i>	<i>Subtotal, personnel</i>	<i>Operating costs (UNOPS)</i>	<i>Direct/indirect costs fee (UNOPS)</i>	<i>Subtotal, non-personnel</i>	
UNSOM	421.9	510.4	932.3	32.7	44.3	77.0	1 009.3
UNSMIL	119.2	1 313.7	1 432.9	29.7	109.5	139.2	1 572.1
UNMHA	93.4	–	93.4	–	–	–	93.4
UNITAMS	132.9	244.9	377.8	1 472.5	133.4	1 606.9	1 984.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>767.4</b>	<b>2 069.0</b>	<b>2 836.4</b>	<b>1 534.9</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>1 823.1</b>	<b>4 659.5</b>

### **United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia**

16. In paragraph 69 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the number and levels of staffing positions reflect a proposed decrease of 27 positions for 2022, as follows: (a) establishment of 3 positions (Chief of Service, Programme Management (D-1), in the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Group; Field Security Officer (P-3) in the Safety and Security Section for the new regional office in Dhuusamarreeb; and Information Analyst, Political Affairs (P-3), in the Integrated Analysis Team in Mogadishu); (b) reclassification of 1 position of Senior United Nations Police Planning Officer (P-5) to United Nations Police Training Officer (P-4) in the Police Section in Mogadishu; (c) reassignment of 1 Translator (P-3) as Programme Management Officer (P-3) in the Office of the Chief of Staff in Mogadishu; (d) conversion of 1 position of Electoral Officer (P-3) from a general temporary assistance position to a regular position in the Integrated Electoral Support Group; and (e) abolishment of 10 general temporary assistance positions (2 Electoral Officers (P-3) and 8 Electoral Officers (National Professional Officer)) and 20 United Nations Volunteer positions in the Integrated Electoral Support Group.

### *Establishment*

17. With regard to the proposed establishment of the position of Information Analyst, Political Affairs (P-3), in the Integrated Analysis Team in Mogadishu, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the incumbent would be responsible for identifying the data requirements of the Integrated Analysis Team and determining the appropriate use of different data models and methods for data collection and the quantitative analysis of data sets. The incumbent would contribute to Integrated Analysis Team and broader United Nations analytical products and presentations by interpreting and analysing data using statistical, specific software skills and data visualization techniques. The Committee was also informed that the team lacked the capacity and skills to conduct in-depth quantitative data analysis and enhanced data management to augment the analytical capacity of UNSOM at a time of increased analytical demands. **The Advisory Committee notes that there are two other positions within the current team structure, including the position of Chief of the Integrated Analysis Team, as well as an existing Information Analyst position (P-3) based in Nairobi that supports the team. Furthermore, taking into consideration the existing resources, the Committee is not convinced by the justifications provided for the proposed position and recommends against the establishment of the P-3 position of Information Analyst.**



### *Reclassification*

18. With regard to the proposed reclassification of the position of Senior United Nations Police Planning Officer (P-5) to United Nations Police Training Officer (P-4) in the Police Section in Mogadishu, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the comprehensive approach to security sub-working group had identified the need for the Police Professional Development Board, which the Police Section chairs, to focus more on the development and long-term coordination and implementation of a Somali police training policy. Consequently, a Training Officer at the P-4 level would allow the Mission to sharpen such a focus and achieve more optimal utilization of its staffing resources. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the review should have taken into account the benefits of current knowledge and expertise provided by a senior active-duty police officer to the strengthening of Somali police training and therefore recommends against the reclassification of the position of Senior United Nations Police Planning Officer (P-5) to United Nations Police Training Officer (P-4) in the Police Section in Mogadishu.**

### *Conversion*

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the conversion of one position of Electoral Officer (P-3) from general temporary assistance to a regular position in the Integrated Electoral Support Group would ensure the long-term availability of skills that combine gender and electoral experience to enable the Group to support the National Independent Electoral Commission in carrying out gender-sensitive universal elections in 2024/25, through the provision of specific gender-related expertise for capacity-building, policy support and programme advice, in order to promote the full participation of women in political and electoral processes. The Committee was also informed that a permanent focus on the gender aspect from an electoral perspective was necessary as the representation and participation of women had become a real challenge, as had the enforcement of the minimum 30 per cent quota of women in parliament as well as in other entities. The Committee was informed that a dedicated position focused on gender and elections within the UNSOM elections team would provide the impetus and focus necessary to help to increase the decision-making power of women, guarantee women's rights and ensure the integration of women from underrepresented groups. **The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/263, requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the nationalization of positions, whenever appropriate, as well as to build local capacity within the special political missions. Taking into consideration the functions to be performed, the Committee recommends that the proposed position of Electoral Officer (P-3) in the Integrated Electoral Support Group be established as a National Professional Officer position.**

### **United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon**

20. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the year 2020 proved to be exceptionally turbulent for Lebanon and its people. The social, economic and humanitarian conditions in the country continued to deteriorate precipitously as the Lebanese currency lost more than 80 per cent of its value. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information regarding the impact of the exchange rate between the United States dollar and the Lebanese pound and was informed that almost 98 per cent of the operating costs and procurement contracts of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon were based on the United States dollar, resulting in minimal impact from exchange rates, and that owing to the economic and monetary challenges faced in Lebanon in 2019, national staff costs had been paid and therefore budgeted in United States dollars. **The Advisory**

**Committee notes the information previously provided to the Committee regarding the impact of the exchange rate on Lebanon-based activities and trusts that a more detailed review of the impacts of currency exchange on the mission will take place and that the Secretary-General will provide an update on the requirements related to the Lebanese pound to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

#### **United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa**

21. In his report, the Secretary-General proposes renaming the Political Affairs Section as Political Affairs Service in a resource-neutral change. The Political Affairs Service will continue to be headed by a Chief of Service (D-1) and continue to comprise two functional pillars, each with subregional oversight, namely: (a) the early warning, analysis and reporting pillar headed by a Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) as team leader; and (b) the partnerships and Economic Community of Central African States institution-building pillar headed by a Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) as team leader. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, according to the norms established by the Secretary-General for organizational nomenclature, a Service is formed by a minimum of eight Professional-level posts headed by a Chief at the D-1 level. A Section is headed by a Chief at the P-5 or P-4 level. Therefore, the proposal is aimed at aligning accordingly and more accurately reflecting the responsibilities and size of the Service, which has gone through two expansions as approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions [70/248 A](#) (in 2015) and [75/253 A](#) (in 2020). The Committee was also informed that the term “pillar” in this context was used to refer to the functional components under the proposed Service and that, in organizational nomenclature, these are referred to as Units. The Committee notes the importance of aligning organizational structures with prevailing norms (see also para. 49 below).

#### **United Nations Support Mission in Libya**

22. The Secretary-General indicates that the Security Council, in its resolution [2542 \(2020\)](#), decided that UNSMIL should be led by a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, who should exercise overall leadership of UNSMIL with a particular focus on good offices and mediation with Libyan and international actors to end the conflict and that, under the authority of the Special Envoy, an UNSMIL coordinator should be in charge of the Mission’s day-to-day operations and management. The Council also requested the Mission, inter alia, to further the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement, help to achieve a ceasefire and provide appropriate support for its implementation ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), paras. 241–242).

23. The organizational changes proposed for 2022 entail the establishment of a new duty station in Geneva, with the reassignment of the position of Special Representative of Secretary-General (Under-Secretary-General) from Tripoli as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (Under-Secretary-General) in Geneva, pursuant to Security Council resolution [2542 \(2020\)](#). The renaming of the following offices is also proposed: Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General as Office of the Special Envoy; Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Political) as Office of Mission Coordinator; and Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator) as Office of the Resident Coordinator Humanitarian Coordinator.

24. The Advisory Committee notes that, irrespective of the proposed changes in the functions of the current Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, provisions continue to be proposed for 2022 in the Mission budget for the position of Resident Coordinator, who would no longer function as Deputy Special

Representative, along with four support positions (2 P-4, 1 Field Service and 1 National Professional Officer) currently in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator). **The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that, in line with the financing arrangements for other Resident Coordinator positions at the Assistant Secretary-General level, the funding for the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator) and the four support positions (2 P-4, 1 Field Service and 1 National Professional Officer) should not be budgeted under the UNSMIL budget for 2022, but should more appropriately be financed under the extrabudgetary funding of the resident coordinator system.** The Committee discusses the matter of Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General who serve as resident coordinators and/or humanitarian coordinators in its main report ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

25. The changes proposed to the staffing structure for 2022 are detailed in paragraph 245 of the report as follows: (a) establishment of 2 positions (Chief of Section, Programme Management (P-5), to lead the mine action component in UNSMIL (see paras. 14–15 above); and Administrative Assistant (General Service) in Geneva); (b) reclassification and redeployment of 2 positions (Administrative Assistant (Field Service) as Administrative Assistant (General Service) from Tripoli to Geneva; and Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Office of the Resident Coordinator as Special Assistant (P-3) in the Office of Mission Coordinator); (c) reassignment of 7 positions (Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Under-Secretary-General) from Tripoli as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (Under-Secretary-General) in Geneva; Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Political) (Assistant Secretary-General) as Mission Coordinator (Assistant Secretary-General); Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (Assistant Secretary-General) as Resident Coordinator (Assistant Secretary-General); Military Adviser (D-1) as Principal Political Affairs Officer (D-1) (see para. 26 below); Border Monitor (P-3) from Tripoli as Security Sector Reform Officer in Benghazi; Administrative Assistant (Field Service) from the Office of the Special Envoy as Protocol Assistant (Field Service) in the Office of the Chief of Staff; and Property Management Assistant (Field Service) as Receiving and Inspection Assistant (Field Service) in the Centralized Warehouse and Requisition Unit; and (d) proposed redeployment of 13 positions (4 P-5, 2 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 National Professional Officer and 1 Field Service) (see paras. 26 and 27 below).

#### *Office of the Special Envoy*

26. The Secretary-General proposes the reassignment of the existing position of Military Adviser (D-1) as Principal Political Affairs Officer (D-1), and further redeployment from Tripoli to the Office of the Special Envoy in Geneva, on the basis of an identified need to strengthen the capacity for providing strategic advice and support to the Special Envoy with respect to all aspects of the implementation of the mandate, in particular with a focus on political good offices and mediation. He also proposes: redeployment of the existing position of Special Assistant, Political Affairs (P-4), from Tripoli to the Office of the Special Envoy in Geneva to provide ongoing dedicated support for all aspects of the work of the Special Envoy in carrying out mandated responsibilities; and redeployment of one position of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) from the Political Affairs Service in Tripoli to the Office of the Special Envoy in Geneva to enhance the substantive capacity of the Office with respect to political good offices and mediation work. **The Advisory Committee notes the continuing field-based needs of the Mission and that the reassignment of positions to Geneva should take place with due consideration of the developing situation on the ground. The Committee also notes that the original functions to**

be carried out by the aforementioned positions proposed for redeployment to Geneva should be further clarified in the context of the next budget submission. The Committee therefore recommends, at this stage, against the reassignment and redeployment of the positions of Military Adviser (D-1) and the redeployment of the positions of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) and Special Assistant, Political Affairs (P-4), from Tripoli to Geneva.

#### *Redeployment*

27. With regard to the redeployment of one position of Aviation Security Assistant (Field Service) from Tripoli to Tunis in the Office of the Chief of Mission Support to provide oversight capacity in the host country of the Mission's Aviation Unit, the Advisory Committee was informed that in 2019, owing to the political and operational developments that had occurred at that time and the intended planned completion of the return of the Mission to Libya, the position had been relocated from Tunis to Tripoli. The Committee was also informed that the proposed redeployment would allow the incumbent to perform the duties in real time, allowing for effective and timely Mission response to issues with a view to ensuring full compliance with applicable policies and standards and ensuring the smooth functioning of the day-to-day aviation safety activities of the Unit. **The Advisory Committee notes that the functions of the position require the incumbent to coordinate with relevant host country authorities and perform liaison functions and therefore recommends the establishment of the position of Aviation Security Assistant (Field Service) as a National Professional Officer position.**

#### **United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement**

28. In the report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Mission will advance its efforts to ensure its balanced repositioning through the immediate establishment of a location in the territory of the Government of Yemen in Hudaydah, while undertaking a budget-neutral restructuring process to ensure adequate and commensurate staffing capacity in locations of both parties and the establishment of a headquarters accessible to both sides. The Secretary-General indicates that this will strengthen the Mission monitoring capacity and enable equal and sustained support to both parties with respect to their compliance with the ceasefire and agreement implementation, and enhance the Mission's political presence in Aden and Sana'a in support of on-the-ground implementation of the Hudaydah Agreement. The Secretary-General proposes the following organizational changes for 2022 in paragraph 318 of his report: (a) the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission, consisting of the existing positions of Deputy Head of Mission (D-2), Coordination Officer (P-4), Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and Administrative Assistant (Field Service); (b) the establishment of the Office of the Chief of Staff, consisting of the existing positions of Chief of Staff (P-5), Legal Officer (P-4) and Mission Planning Officer (P-3); (c) the establishment of the Political Affairs Section, consisting of 10 existing positions redeployed from the Liaison and Coordination Section, the Office of the Head of Mission and from the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission; and (d) the establishment of the Police Advisory Unit, consisting of four existing positions redeployed from the Liaison and Coordination Section and the Office of the Head of Mission. In paragraph 319 of the report, the Secretary-General indicates the changes to the staffing structure proposed for 2022, comprising the establishment of 6 positions, the conversion of 3 positions, the reassignment of 10 positions and the redeployment of 28 positions.

### *Establishment*

29. It is proposed to establish one position of Coordination Officer (P-3) in the Office of the Chief of Mission Support in Riyadh. The Advisory Committee was informed that the incumbent would coordinate with the relevant authorities of Saudi Arabia and the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee in Riyadh to ensure rapid support for all movements of United Nations personnel and assets within Yemen; obtain timely approval and clearance for passengers travelling from/to Yemen; coordinate with the deconfliction team in support of their work with the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee; and liaise with the authorities of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Yemen based in Riyadh, in support of Mission leadership travel (for both the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and UNMHA) to Saudi Arabia. **The Advisory Committee notes that the functions of the position require the incumbent to coordinate with relevant authorities and perform liaison functions and therefore recommends the establishment of the P-3 Coordination Officer as a National Professional Officer position.**

30. It is also proposed to establish the following three Field Service positions: one Human Resource Officer in the Human Resources Unit in Sana'a; one Finance and Budget Officer in the Finance and Budget Unit in Amman; and one Procurement Assistant in the Procurement Unit in Amman. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information regarding the proposed positions. **The Advisory Committee notes from the organizational chart of UNMHA that some staffing resources are already available in the mission and is therefore not fully convinced by the justifications provided and recommends against the establishment of the three Field Service positions of Human Resource Officer in the Human Resources Unit in Sana'a, Finance and Budget Officer in the Finance and Budget Unit in Amman and Procurement Assistant in the Procurement Unit in Amman.**

### *Conversion*

31. It is proposed to convert three international Professional positions to National Professional positions, as follows: (a) one Civil Affairs Officer (P-3) from the Liaison and Coordination Team southern hub, to be converted and reassigned as Associate Public Information Officer (National Professional Officer) in the Office of the Head of Mission/Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee Chair in Hudaydah; and (b) two Civil Affairs Officers (P-3) in the Liaison and Coordination Team central hub to be converted to Associate Civil Affairs Officers (National Professional Officer) in the Political Affairs Section in Hudaydah.

### *Redeployment*

32. It is proposed to redeploy one position of Chief Procurement Officer (P-4) in the Procurement Unit in Sana'a to Amman. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Chief Procurement Officer position (P-4, UNMHA) based in Sana'a was proposed to be redeployed to Amman to take over the management of the Procurement Unit and ensure the operational alignment with the Chief of Operations and Resource Management position (P-5) in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen. **The Advisory Committee is not fully convinced by the justifications provided and considers that a more senior-level position is still required to manage procurement matters in Yemen. The Committee therefore recommends against the proposed redeployment of the position of Chief Procurement Officer (P-4) in the Procurement Unit in Sana'a to Amman (see also para. 18 of A/76/7/Add.2).**

**Vacant positions**

33. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information regarding 135 positions vacant for over one year and 93 positions vacant for over two years in special political missions, as at 30 June 2021, under thematic cluster III. The Committee notes that the majority of long-vacant positions continue to be located within UNSOM, UNSMIL, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, UNMHA and BINUH and recalls that a number of missions, including UNSOM and UNSMIL, have experienced particular challenges in the recruitment of qualified personnel. **The Advisory Committee is concerned about the number of long-vacant posts within the aforementioned special political missions, particularly at the national levels, and trusts that the recruitment for all vacant positions will be completed expeditiously and updated information will be provided to the General Assembly in the next budget submission. The Committee also recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to conduct a staffing assessment to justify the proposed staffing resources.**

*Vacancy rates*

34. Annex XV to the main report of the Secretary-General ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#)) contains information on vacant positions. Table 5 below sets out the vacancy rates for missions under cluster III. Upon enquiry as to the application of different vacancy rates to individual missions, the Advisory Committee was informed that, for reassigned positions in special political missions, continuing rates are applied to improve the accuracy and consistency of the vacancy rate factors applied. The Committee was also informed that the reassignment of positions had been introduced as a new concept in the 2020 proposed programme budget, to be aligned with the term used in the context of peacekeeping operations, and that, while a vacancy rate of 50 per cent could be applied to positions proposed for reassignment to reflect the substantial changes in function, proposed vacancy rates were adjusted to reflect mission-specific circumstances, including anticipated changes in missions' personnel strength, expeditious recruitment activities being undertaken and the nature of some of the proposed posts. The Committee was further informed that missions were required to undertake a critical analysis of their human capital capacity requirements during the annual budget development process and had discretion to temporarily redeploy or reassign posts during budget implementation, in the light of unforeseen operational requirements. **While noting that proposed vacancy rates are adjusted to reflect mission-specific circumstances, the Advisory Committee is of the view that a 50 per cent vacancy rate should consistently be applied to positions proposed for reassignment.** The Committee discusses vacant positions and vacancy rates further in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

Table 5  
Vacancy rates for thematic cluster III

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved positions, 2021</i>	<i>Approved vacancy rate, 2021 (percentage)</i>	<i>Vacancy rates, as at 30 June 2021 (percentage)</i>	<i>Average vacancy rates Jan.–Jun. 2021 (percentage)</i>	<i>Proposed positions, 2022</i>	<i>Budgeted vacancy rate, 2022 (percentage)</i>
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel	International staff	44	13	23	25	44	16
	National Professional Officer	9	–	22	25	9	8
	National staff (Local level)	22	–	23	31	22	8
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia	International staff	187	13	18	17	188	13; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	92	17	25	19	84	17
	National staff (Local level)	45	11	27	20	45	11
	United Nations Volunteer	38	8	55	60	18	8
United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia	International staff	8	5	–	–	8	5
	National Professional Officer	4	5	–	–	4	5
	National staff (Local level)	18	5	–	–	18	5
United Nations support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission	International staff	9	5	11	11	9	5
	National staff (Local level)	2	–	–	–	2	–
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	International staff	19	5	16	22	19	5
	National Professional Officer	5	–	20	20	5	–
	National staff (Local level)	58	3	7	8	58	3
United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa	International staff	33	10	21	21	33	14
	National Professional Officer	4	–	25	25	4	–
	National staff (Local level)	11	–	18	14	11	–

<i>Mission</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Approved positions, 2021</i>	<i>Approved vacancy rate, 2021 (percentage)</i>	<i>Vacancy rates, as at 30 June 2021 (percentage)</i>	<i>Average vacancy rates Jan.–Jun. 2021 (percentage)</i>	<i>Proposed positions, 2022</i>	<i>Budgeted vacancy rate, 2022 (percentage)</i>
United Nations Support Mission in Libya	International staff	210		24	27	212	24.3; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	14	64	57	58	14	60
	National staff (Local level)	84	31.5	38	37	84	27
	United Nations Volunteer	6	33	33	22	6	16.7
United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia	International staff	162	17	23	26	160	17
	National Professional Officer	78	12	26	26	80	12; new position: 50
	National staff (Local level)	80	12	19	17	82	12; new position: 35
	United Nations Volunteer	131	International: 1; national: 0	26	28	131	1
United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement	International staff	74	25	45	46	77	25; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	5	25	80	67	8	25
	National staff (Local level)	80	25	50	51	80	25
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	International staff	65	20	23	24	65	20
	National Professional Officer	21	5	5	1	17	1
	National staff (Local level)	28	7	21	14	28	6
United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan	International staff	141	50	58	72	136	45; new positions: 50
	National Professional Officer	48	50	85	95	50	45
	National staff (Local level)	69	50	91	93	73	45
	United Nations Volunteer	11	50	91	94	11	45

*Special post allowance*

35. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information regarding the positions with incumbents in receipt of special post allowance for one year or more in special political missions, as at 30 June 2021. For the missions under thematic



cluster III, there were four such positions, comprising two since 2019 (1 D-1, 1 FS), and two since 2020 (1 P-4, 1 P-5). The Committee makes further comments on special post allowance on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.2-A/76/7/Add.6](#)).

36. Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32 and 34 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for 2022 for cluster III. Any related operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.

## B. Comments and recommendations on operational costs

37. The proposed resources for operational costs for the 11 special political missions under thematic cluster III for 2022 amount to \$162,382,800, reflecting a decrease of \$2,139,900, or 1.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation of \$164,522,700 for 2021. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the operational costs for thematic cluster III, including the 2020 expenditures, the 2021 appropriation and the proposed requirements for 2022, as shown in table 6 below. The Committee notes that operational costs decreased in all except four missions, namely, UNITAMS (\$6,923,200), BINUH (\$152,000), UNOCA (\$87,100) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (\$58,100).

Table 6  
**Thematic cluster III: operational costs**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2020		2021		2022		Variance 2022 vs. 2021 appropriation
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, 1 Jan–30 Jun	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
<b>Operational costs</b>							
Experts	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Consultants and consulting services	2 946.0	1 417.1	2 472.4	659.7	2 386.7	–	(85.7)
Official travel	8 497.0	2 502.5	7 372.8	2 011.2	7 270.1	–	(102.7)
Facilities and infrastructure	59 840.6	68 744.6	58 023.3	29 534.6	62 267.7	18.0	4 244.4
Ground transportation	7 469.0	7 391.2	6 348.0	3 088.7	6 311.2	–	(36.8)
Air operations	41 330.6	33 506.4	45 169.7	15 851.5	40 882.1	–	(4 287.6)
Marine operations	402.0	180.1	325.5	85.2	321.6	–	(3.9)
Communications and information technology	20 781.3	22 264.2	19 814.4	9 304.9	20 998.0	399.5	1 183.6
Medical	8 293.4	5 278.2	10 594.9	2 142.5	8 107.3	–	(2 487.6)
Special equipment	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	11 113.3	16 733.8	14 401.7	5 307.4	13 838.1	–	(563.6)
Quick-impact projects	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>160 673.2</b>	<b>158 018.1</b>	<b>164 522.7</b>	<b>67 985.7</b>	<b>162 382.8</b>	<b>417.5</b>	<b>(2 139.9)</b>

### *Land-based facilities in Hudaydah*

38. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that, during 2022, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and UNMHA will continue to

deploy an integrated mission support structure and that, currently, the Mission's land-based facilities in Hudaydah are limited to the Four Villas compound, which it has occupied since 7 May 2020. The Mission is planning to establish its headquarters at Hudaydah airport in 2021 with an additional operating base in the area under the control of the Government of Yemen. It is expected that those additional land-based facilities will be established in 2021 and will be available for use in 2022, provided that local authorities allow the Mission to rent and establish the new proposed facilities in a timely manner (A/76/6(Sect. 3)/Add.4, paras. 314 and 315).

39. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information indicating that resources amounting to \$10,793,200 under facilities and infrastructure were proposed mainly to provide for the following: the acquisition of prefabricated facilities, accommodation and refrigeration equipment (\$352,300), the acquisition of furniture (\$203,300) and the acquisition of safety and security equipment (\$258,000); the rental of premises (\$2,660,500); utilities and waste disposal services (\$483,400); maintenance services (\$1,405,400); security services (\$2,853,800); construction, alteration, renovation and major maintenance (\$721,100); stationery and office supplies (\$122,400); spare parts and supplies (\$325,600); construction material and field defence supplies (\$105,000); petrol, oil and lubricants (\$1,112,100). The Committee notes that the increase in requirements for 2022 in the amount of \$2,891,200 is attributable mainly to: (a) the operational and security cost for additional land-based premises in Hudaydah for the Mission headquarters at Hudaydah airport and one additional operational base in the area controlled by the Government of Yemen; (b) additional accommodation premises in Sana'a; and (c) the cost share of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen office premises in Amman, Sana'a and Aden.

40. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, during discussions with both parties, it had been concluded that the Hudaydah base camp outlined in the budget proposal may not be realized in the course of 2021 or 2022 and that the cost proposed for the Hudaydah base camp would likely not be needed. The Committee was also provided with details of costs for the land-based facilities in Hudaydah, including the Hudaydah office and accommodation (Four Villas) (\$2,628,762), the Hudaydah base camp (\$1,579,169) and Hudaydah airport headquarters (\$3,325,227). **Taking into consideration the overall underexpenditures in 2020, and considering the integrated mission support structure deployed by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and UNMHA, and that the Mission's land-based facilities in Hudaydah are limited to the Four Villas compound, which it has occupied since 7 May 2020, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of \$2,900,000 to the proposed amount for operational costs under UNMHA.**

#### *Consultants and consulting services*

41. Proposed resources for 2022 for consultants and consulting services amount to \$2,386,700, representing a reduction of \$85,700 as compared with the 2021 appropriation of \$2,472,400. The total amount includes the following resources: (a) \$779,400 in respect of UNSOM to provide for expertise of individual consultants in the areas of rule of law, data collection, digital media, young people, crisis management and business continuity, and political, conflict analysis, child protection and outreach activities; (b) \$296,900 in respect of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia to provide for individual consultants to assist the Mission in specialized areas where staff capacity and expertise are not available, including gender affairs, information management, survey activities, records management, data mining, data literacy and legal archiving; and (c) \$187,500 in respect of BINUH to provide for short-term services, to develop and oversee the communications strategy

around the implementation of political reforms resulting from the 2021 referendum and elections, to design and facilitate a consultation process on a national dialogue, and to develop a regulatory framework on audits of budget execution in benefit of the General Inspectorate of the Haitian National Police.

42. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that increased resources in the amount of \$86,600 for UNSOM were required owing to the security situation, political instability and the inherent high risk that was prevalent on the ground, which sometimes constrained United Nations staff from physically meeting with the key stakeholders and had required UNSOM to employ suitable consultants in key substantive areas as a mitigation measure to ensure that face-to-face contact could be made with various stakeholders in order to build meaningful relationships. The Committee was also provided with additional information regarding the proposed resources for the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and BINUH. **The Advisory Committee understands that security considerations may curtail the use of staff in certain situations and that the need for specialized expertise may also require the use of consultancy services. Nevertheless, the Committee is of the view that the high vacancy rates in special political missions, in particular in terms of national staffing capacity (see table 5 above) should act as a greater impetus towards filling vacancies and ensuring that in-house capacity is available for mandated activities.**

43. Expenditure in 2020 for consultants and consulting services amounted to \$1,417,100 as compared with the 2020 appropriation of \$2,946,000 and \$659,700 in 2021 as at 30 June, compared with the appropriation of \$2,472,400. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the use of consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum and that core activities should be performed by in-house capacity (A/75/7/Add.3, para. 18). Taking this into account, as well as the level of expenditure in 2020 and 2021, the Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$234,900, with the exclusion of UNMHA, to the proposed resources for consultants and consulting services for the missions grouped under thematic cluster III (see para. 40 above).**

#### *Official travel*

44. The proposed provision of \$7,270,100 for 2022 under official travel represents a decrease of \$102,700 compared with the approved resources for 2021. Expenditures amounted to \$2,502,500 for 2020 and \$2,011,200 for 2021 as at 30 June, against the provision of \$8,497,000 for 2020 and \$7,372,800 for 2021. The proposed decrease for 2022 is attributable mainly to lower requirements for training travel owing to efforts to increase the use of videoconference and online training courses, resulting in lower requirements principally under UNSOM (\$45,400), UNSMIL (\$55,200) and UNMHA (\$34,200). The proposed decreased requirements for official travel for 2022 are offset in part by a proposed increase in official travel requirements under the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (\$11,400), UNOCA (\$7,800), the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (\$7,600) and UNITAMS (\$6,200).

45. The Advisory Committee was provided upon enquiry with expenditure information for 2020 and as at 30 June 2021 for each mission, which reflected significant underexpenditure or no expenditure. **In view of the expenditure patterns and proposed budget of each mission, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$649,500, with the exclusion of UNMHA, to the proposed resources for 2022 under official travel for the missions grouped under thematic cluster III (see para. 40 above).** The Committee makes further observations on official travel resources in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/76/7/Add.1).

*Communications and information technology*

46. The proposed provision of \$20,998,000 for 2022 under communications and information technology represents an increase of \$1,183,600, or 6.0 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2021. The proposed increases are attributable mainly to increased requirements under: (a) UNMHA (\$728,000) for maintenance of information technology equipment and support services due to the expansion of the Mission to two additional locations in Hudaydah, offset in part by lower fees for software licences and lower requirements for public information and publication services; (b) UNITAMS (\$589,000), attributable mainly to the provision of full-year requirements for communication and information technology services to sustain the operation, maintaining the information and communications technology infrastructure and engaging public information, telecommunication and network service providers for support services through systems and local contracts; (c) BINUH (\$93,000) for public information and publication services with respect to the broadcast and dissemination of information, critical to promoting peace and ensuring inclusivity in the peace agenda for Haiti, in the post-referendum and post-election period of 2022; (d) UNOCA (\$49,500) for the maintenance of information technology equipment and support services; (e) the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (\$35,200) for the expansion and improvement of information technology services to support mission operations in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; (f) the Cameroon Nigeria Mixed Commission (\$17,100) for the expansion and improvement of information technology services to support mission operations; and (g) the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (\$15,500) for the acquisition of videoconferencing equipment and for telecommunications and network services requirements owing to the increase in the standard rate for centrally managed satellite transponder services. The Advisory Committee makes further observations and recommendation in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

*Other supplies, services and equipment*

47. In his main report, the Secretary-General indicates that the proposed overall resources for 2022 include a provision of \$1,742,200 for the share of special political missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe for the 2021/22 peacekeeping financial period (see also [A/76/7/Add.1](#), table 2) and reflected an increase of \$329,800 (or 23.4 per cent), due to (a) the transfer of the Global Procurement Support Section to the Centre as a tenant unit;<sup>3</sup> and (b) the increase in the share of special political missions in the cost of the Centre, from 3.8 per cent for 2020/21 to 4.3 per cent for the 2021/22 period, attributable to the addition of UNITAMS as a new client mission, as well as the drawdown of UNAMID ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.1](#), para. 51).

48. The proposed requirements for individual contractual services for 2022 under Other supplies, services and equipment, in the amount of \$618,000, represent an increase of \$395,300 from the 2021 appropriation. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the original mission concept of UNITAMS assumed that the majority of the Mission's support requirements could be met through the capacity of the United Nations country team, and the Mission's staffing table consequently provided for minimal capacity in the key operational areas of administration, facilities management, movement control, translation, field technology services, ground transport and aviation to support office operations and manage facilities and equipment received from UNAMID. The Committee was informed that the country team did not have sufficient capacity to provide the

<sup>3</sup> The transfer was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/294](#).

necessary support to UNITAMS, thereby necessitating the engagement of 46 individual contractors as a stop-gap arrangement while the mission support concept was being reviewed to evaluate the need for dedicated capacity to enable UNITAMS to support its operations without using individual contractors. **The Advisory Committee notes that UNITAMS has been added as a new client mission of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and trusts that the review of the mission support concept will include the support to be provided by the Regional Service Centre to UNITAMS and will be reflected in future budget proposals.**

## C. Other matters

### *Planning assumptions and organizational changes*

49. The Advisory Committee notes the planning assumptions of various missions under cluster III, including staffing changes, the proposed reassignment and redeployment of positions and changes to mission structures, in particular as regards the Integrated Electoral Support Group of UNSOM, the establishment of a new duty station in Geneva and the related organizational changes in UNSMIL, and the redeployment of positions to the different locations of Hudaydah, Sana'a and Aden in UNMHA due to the changing political environment. The Committee also notes the differing planning assumptions between missions and offices in the same geographic area or country and the need for greater use of lessons learned, analysis and assessments on the ground (see also [A/76/7/Add.1](#), para. 68 and [A/76/7/Add.2](#), para. 29). **The Advisory Committee expects that greater efforts will be made to refine the formulation of planning assumptions to ensure more consistency in the reflection of the operational environment, including through the integration of lessons learned, and greater analysis and assessment of applicable factors.**

### *United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia water project*

50. In his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the new water project of the Regional Centre for 2022–2025 will be implemented with the close involvement of representatives of Afghanistan. By convening a series of seminars and workshops, the Centre will work to increase decision makers' knowledge of international water law, best practices from around the world and possible options for regional agreements tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of Central Asia ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.4](#), paras. 80 and 109). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the relaunch of the project was expected by the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2021, followed by resource mobilization efforts to strengthen and expand alliances with various strategic partners, including countries of the region and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The new phase will add focus on climate security and gender and will aim to involve more expertise from staff from other United Nations entities, while keeping the platform for meetings of national experts on water energy and the environment from five States of Central Asia and Afghanistan to spur dialogue on possible regional arrangements on transboundary water management.

51. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraphs 36, 40, 43 and 45 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs for 2022.**