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Proposed programme budget for 2022

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Part II

Political affairs

Section 3

Political affairs

Special political missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Seventh 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 on the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#)). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 3 September 2021.

2. The Secretary-General, 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](#)), 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.¹ The addenda cover the specific requirements for thematic clusters I to III, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and UNAMI.

¹ [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](#).



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. With respect to UNAMA, the Security Council, in its resolution [2596 \(2021\)](#), decided to extend the mandate of the Mission for six months, until 17 March 2022. At the time of writing, the Advisory Committee was awaiting information from the Secretary-General on any implications of that resolution on the proposed budget for 2022 for UNAMA. The comments and recommendations of the Committee will be contained in its related report ([A/76/7/Add.5](#)).

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.²

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

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

6. In its resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMI until 27 May 2022. The report of the Secretary-General provides information on the Mission's programme plan, assumptions and planned results (see [A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), sect. I.A). As indicated in paragraphs 2 to 7 of that report, in 2022, UNAMI will, inter alia, continue to provide good offices, encourage inclusive political dialogue and reconciliation, support the Government's constitutional review and assist with the development of electoral processes. It will also continue to promote accountability, the protection of human rights and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and gender mainstreaming, in addition to supporting the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD). Furthermore, in step with the ongoing transition in Iraq from humanitarian efforts towards sustainable development, and in response to heightened needs due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and economic setbacks, the Mission will increase its advisory, coordinating and advocacy role to support the Government in its efforts to diversify the economy, reform public institutions, reconstruct war-damaged communities, manage natural resources and enable the return of internally displaced families (see para. 16 below).

B. Information on resources for 2020, 2021 and 2022

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the proposed resource requirements for 2022 for UNAMI compared with the resources approved for 2020 and 2021, as well as the expenditure incurred in 2020 and in the period from January to June 2021, as summarized in table 1.

² [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
Budget performance and total resource requirements (net of assessment)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	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)	(6)	(7)=(5)-(3)
Military and police personnel costs	5 238.2	5 080.8	5 310.2	1 541.2	5 140.3	–	(169.9)
Civilian personnel costs	79 582.8	78 710.1	80 123.2	37 097.0	79 388.9	–	(734.3)
Operational costs	15 725.3	16 166.7	13 643.4	7 552.2	13 650.5	–	7.1
Total	100 546.3	99 957.6	99 076.8	46 190.4	98 179.7	–	(897.1)

8. Expenditure in 2020 amounted to \$99,957,600 against an appropriation of \$100,546,300, reflecting an implementation rate of 99.4 per cent. As at 30 June 2021, expenditure amounted to \$46,190,400 against an appropriation of \$99,076,800, reflecting a 47 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.**

C. Proposed resource requirements for 2022

9. As shown in table 1, the resource requirements proposed for UNAMI for 2022 amount to \$98,179,700, reflecting a net decrease of \$897,100, or 0.9 per cent, compared with the resources approved for the Mission for 2021. The decrease is attributable mainly to lower costs of rations, freight and deployment of contingent-owned equipment, as well as decreased civilian staff costs due primarily to the application of a lower percentage of common staff costs based on expenditure patterns (A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 35). A summary of the main variances between the approved resources for 2021 and the proposed requirements for 2022 is provided in paragraphs 67 to 90 of the report of the Secretary-General.

1. Military and police personnel

10. Proposed resources in the amount of \$5,140,300 would provide for the deployment of 245 military contingent personnel, at the same level as 2021, and related requirements. The decrease of \$169,900, or 3.2 per cent, is attributable mainly to: (a) lower costs for rations resulting from a one-time mobilization cost in 2021; and (b) reduced costs for freight and the deployment of contingent-owned equipment and lower requirements for travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation (ibid., paras. 67–68).

11. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for military personnel for 2022 for UNAMI.**

2. Civilian personnel

12. Proposed requirements under civilian personnel in the amount of \$79,388,900 represent a decrease of \$734,300, or 0.9 per cent, reflecting lower requirements for international staff (\$3,217,700) owing to the application of a lower percentage of common staff costs, as well as the impact of proposed abolishments and conversions

(see para. 13 below), offset in part by higher requirements for national staff (\$2,440,400) due to increased national staffing and higher common staff costs, as well as United Nations Volunteers costs (\$43,000) (A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, paras. 70, 72 and 74).

13. A summary of the proposed staffing requirements and changes is contained in paragraphs 39 to 66 of and annexes II to IV to the report of the Secretary-General. The proposed staffing of 804 positions, which comprises 294 international staff (133 in the Professional and higher categories and 161 Field Service), 508 national staff (117 National Professional Officer and 391 Local level) and 2 United Nations Volunteers, reflects a decrease of 3 positions compared with the approved level for 2021. The proposed staffing changes include the abolishment of 3 positions, the redeployment of 10 positions, the reassignment of 24 positions, the downward reclassification of 2 positions, the conversion and reassignment of 4 positions and the conversion of 2 positions, as summarized in table 2.

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Level</i>
Approved for 2021	807	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 18 P-5, 49 P-4, 56 P-3, 4 P-2, 166 FS, 112 NPO, 390 LL, 2 UNV
Proposal for 2022	804	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 6 D-1, 18 P-5, 47 P-4, 54 P-3, 4 P-2, 161 FS, 117 NPO, 391 LL, 2 UNV
Abolishment	(3)	1 Special Assistant (P-3) 1 Staff Counsellor (P-3) 1 Close Protection Officer (FS)
Redeployment	–	1 Security Officer (FS) from Baghdad to Erbil 1 Security Assistant (LL) from Baghdad to Basrah 1 Coordination Officer (P-3) from Kirkuk to Mosul 1 Travel Assistant (LL) from the Office of the Chief of Operations and Resource Management to the Office of the Chief of Mission Support 1 Liaison Assistant (LL) from the Office of the Chief of Operations and Resource Management to the Office of the Chief of Mission Support 2 Team Assistants (LL) from the Office of the Chief of Operations and Resource Management to the Office of the Chief of Mission Support 1 Contract Management Officer (P-3) from the Acquisition Planning and Requisitioning Unit to the Contracts Management Unit 1 Administrative Assistant (LL) from the Acquisition Planning and Requisitioning Unit to the Contracts Management Unit 1 Team Assistant (LL) from the Regional Office in Erbil to the Centralized Warehousing Section in Erbil
Reassignment	–	1 Language Assistant (LL) to Team Assistant (LL) 2 Humanitarian Liaison Officers (P-4) to Coordination Officers (P-4) 2 Humanitarian Liaison Officers (P-3) to Coordination Officers (P-3) 1 Associate Humanitarian Liaison Officer (P-2) to Associate Coordination Officer (P-2) 11 Associate Humanitarian Liaison Officers (NPO) to Associate Coordination Officers (NPO) 5 Assistant Humanitarian Liaison Officers (NPO) to Assistant Coordination Officers (NPO)

	Number	Level
		1 Contract Management Officer (FS) to Acquisition Planning Officer (FS)
		1 Generator Mechanic (LL) to Engineering Assistant (LL)
Reclassification	–	1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4 to P-3)
		1 Coordination Officer (P-4 to P-3)
Conversion and reassignment	–	1 Humanitarian Liaison Officer (P-3) to Coordination Officer (NPO)
		1 Humanitarian Liaison Officer (P-3) to Associate Coordination Officer (NPO)
		1 Property Control and Inventory Assistant (FS) to Associate Supply Officer (NPO)
		1 Facilities Management Assistant (FS) to Engineer (NPO)
Conversion	–	1 Administrative Assistant (FS) to Administrative Assistant (LL)
		1 Property Control and Inventory Assistant (FS) to Associate Property Control and Inventory Officer (NPO)

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

Outsourcing of counselling services: abolishment of one position of Staff Counsellor (P-3)

14. The Secretary-General proposes the abolishment of one position of Staff Counsellor (P-3), owing to the outsourcing of counselling services (*ibid.*, para. 62 (b)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI planned to engage a private company specializing in counselling services by December 2021. According to the Secretariat, by replacing the position of Staff Counsellor (P-3) with a company, the Mission would significantly strengthen the support currently provided by the Staff Counselling Unit – which is composed of two Staff Counsellors (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) – to nearly 2,500 staff in UNAMI, UNITAD and the United Nations country teams across eight offices in Iraq and Kuwait. It is also proposed that the remaining position of Staff Counsellor (P-4) would work with the company and conduct advocacy for staff, mediation and preventative interventions. The Committee recalls that a provision of \$45,084 to engage a counselling firm was included in the budget for 2021 and that no proposal to abolish the position of Staff Counsellor (P-3) was put forward at that time (see also [A/75/7/Add.7](#), para. 24). **The Advisory Committee considers that there is a need for greater clarity and more detailed information on the Mission's plans for outsourcing the staff counselling services, and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in the next budget proposal, a cost-benefit analysis as well as information on similar experiences in other missions, including the possibility of strengthening confidentiality. The Committee also recalls its recommendation that the Secretary-General, in his next programme budget submission, present proposals on the harmonization or consolidation of the functions of the Critical Incident Stress Management Unit in the Department of Safety and Security, and the Staff Counsellors Office in the Division of Health-Care Management and Occupational Safety and Health in the Department of Operational Support ([A/76/7](#), para. XII.34).**

Renaming of the Development Coordination Office and reassignment of Humanitarian Liaison Officer positions as Coordination Officer positions

15. The Secretary-General proposes the renaming of the Development Coordination Office as the Development Support Office to better align the title of the Office with the Mission's mandate and avoid its confusion with the Development Coordination

Office at United Nations Headquarters in New York ([A/76/6 \(Sect. 3\)/Add.6](#), para. 53). Within the renamed Development Support Office, the Secretary-General's staffing proposals include the reassignment of 21 Humanitarian Liaison Officer positions (2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2 and 16 National Professional Officer) as Coordination Officer positions and the conversion and reassignment of 2 Humanitarian Liaison Officer positions (P-3) as Coordination Officer (National Professional Officer) positions (*ibid.*, para. 54 (b)).

16. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed reassignments were consistent with the ongoing transition from primarily humanitarian efforts to a greater focus on reconstruction and long-term development in response to the evolving situation in Iraq. The Committee was also informed that the Humanitarian Liaison Officer positions were encumbered by staff already performing broadened functions related to the nexus between humanitarian and development needs and development coordination. The new expanded responsibilities included engaging with local government officials and civil society on development needs, strategies and projects, as well as assisting donors and other development actors in liaising with the governorates. **Given the emphasis on the engagement with local actors as part of the broadened functions of the Coordination Officer positions, the Advisory Committee recommends that one of the two Humanitarian Liaison Officer (P-3) positions proposed for reassignment also be converted into a Coordination Officer (National Professional Officer) position (see also para. 17 below).** The Committee discusses organizational structures and staffing changes related to the transition to development activities in the context of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

Nationalization of positions

17. The Secretary-General proposes the nationalization of six positions (2 P-3 and 4 Field Service) in the areas of mission support and development support, as summarized in table 2. **The Advisory Committee again welcomes the Mission's efforts to promote the nationalization of positions, including in the area of development support, and encourages the Mission to explore additional opportunities for nationalization (see also [A/75/7/Add.7](#), para. 13; see also para. 17 above).** The Committee discusses nationalization further in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

Vacant positions, vacancy rates and special post allowance

18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 June 2021, 83 positions were vacant (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 12 P-3, 13 Field Service, 14 National Professional Officer and 36 Local level). A total of 10 positions (1 P-3, 3 National Professional Officer and 6 Local level) had been vacant for over two years: the 6 Local level positions remained to be advertised, including owing to security clearance, pandemic-related and evacuation issues; the 3 National Professional Officer positions were in the phase of shortlisting candidates; and the 1 P-3 position was being proposed for conversion and reassignment. **The Advisory Committee trusts that all vacant posts will be filled expeditiously, and that an update on the recruitment status will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the next budget submission.**

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee received information on the approved positions and vacancy rates for 2021, the actual vacancy rates as at 30 June 2021 and average rates for the period from January to June 2021, as well as the proposed positions and budgeted vacancy rates for 2022 for UNAMI (see table 3).

Table 3
Number of positions and vacancy rates, 2021–2022

Category	Approved positions, 2021	Approved vacancy rate, 2021 (percentage)	Vacancy rate as at 30 June 2021 (percentage)	Average vacancy rate, January–June 2021 (percentage)	Proposed positions, 2022	Budgeted vacancy rate, 2022 (percentage)
International staff	303	8	13.2	13.3	294	8
National Professional Officer	112	8	12.5	11.8	117	10
National staff (Local level)	390	7	9.7	8.9	391	9
United Nations Volunteer	2	17	–	–	2	–

20. Information provided to the Advisory Committee also indicated that, as at 30 June 2021, six positions (2 D-1, 2 P-4, 1 Field Service and 1 General Service (Other level)) were encumbered through special post allowance, including three positions (1 D-1, 1 Field Service and 1 General Service (Other level)) for more than one year. These arrangements were expected to conclude by December 2021. The Committee makes further comments on special post allowance in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

21. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraph 16 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the staffing proposals of the Secretary-General for 2022 for UNAMI.**

3. Operational costs

22. The proposed requirements for operational costs for 2022 amount to \$13,650,500, reflecting a slight increase of \$7,100 compared with the appropriation for 2021. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the operational costs for UNAMI, including the appropriation and expenditure for 2020 and the appropriation for 2021 and expenditure up to 30 June 2021, as well as proposed requirements for 2022, as shown in table 4.

Table 4
Operational costs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2020		2021		2022	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, January–June	Total requirements	2022 vs. 2021 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
Operational costs						
Experts	–	–	–	–	–	–
Consultants and consulting services	309.7	109.1	255.2	53.8	136.8	(118.4)
Official travel	1 503.1	164.7	1 015.8	93.8	909.4	(106.4)
Facilities and infrastructure	3 717.9	4 771.0	3 241.4	1 487.9	3 554.4	313.0
Ground transportation	733.1	569.4	735.8	405.5	555.9	(179.9)
Air operations	3 162.1	2 614.6	3 162.1	2 003.8	3 298.3	136.2
Communications and information technology	3 436.4	4 730.6	2 874.8	1 845.7	2 834.1	(40.7)

Category of expenditure	2020		2021		2022	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, January–June	Total requirements	2022 vs. 2021 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
Medical	210.9	591.6	280.0	212.5	324.5	44.5
Other supplies, services and equipment	2 652.1	2 615.7	2 078.3	1 059.3	2 037.1	(41.2)
Total	15 725.3	16 166.7	13 643.4	7 552.2	13 650.5	7.1

Official travel

23. Proposed requirements in the amount of \$909,400, representing a decrease of \$106,400, or 10.5 per cent, compared with the 2021 appropriation, would provide for travel to carry out official travel (non-training) (\$556,400) and training-related travel (\$353,000) (A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, para. 77). Expenditure amounted to \$164,700 in 2020 and \$93,800 as at 30 June 2021, reflecting the impact of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. **The Advisory Committee trusts that, in applying lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, travel for workshops, conferences or meetings would be kept to a minimum and more use would be made of virtual meetings and online training tools (see also A/76/7, para. 67). Taking also into account the level of expenditure in 2020 and during the first six months of 2021, as well as the likely continued impact of COVID-19 on travel in 2022, the Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent, or \$136,400, under official travel for UNAMI.**

Petrol, oil and lubricants

24. A total provision of \$1,058,700 would provide for petrol, oil and lubricants under facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation and air operations, representing an increase of \$73,900, or 7.5 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2021, as summarized in table 5.

Table 5
Evolution of financial requirements for petrol, oil and lubricants

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	2020		2021		2022	Variance
	Appropriation	Expenditure	Appropriation	Expenditure, January–June	Total requirements	2022 vs. 2021 Increase/ (decrease)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)=(5)-(3)
Facilities and infrastructure						
Petrol, oil and lubricants	357.0	190.9	319.8	82.4	441.3	121.5
Ground transportation						
Petrol, oil and lubricants	140.0	171.6	140.0	59.9	136.1	(3.9)
Air operations						
Petrol, oil and lubricants	589.0	111.7	525.0	179.8	481.3	(43.7)
Total	1 086.0	474.2	984.8	322.1	1 058.7	73.9

25. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the decreased footprint of staff of agencies, funds and programmes resulted in a proportionately lower level of the cost recovered by UNAMI for the fuel used to run generators under facilities and infrastructure and for ground transportation. Furthermore, UNAMI bears the cost of transport shuttles, which also service members of the United Nations country team, and for which there is no cost recovery. The Committee was also informed that there is no clause within the UNAMI fuel purchase contract requiring the Mission to purchase a minimum volume of fuel per year. Expenditure for petrol, oil and lubricants amounted to \$474,200 in 2020 and \$322,100 as at 30 June 2021. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced that the proposed level of resources is adequately justified, and considers that the Secretary-General should provide greater clarity as well as more detailed and disaggregated information on the consumption of petrol, oil and lubricants by UNAMI and other United Nations entities in Iraq, the amounts borne by UNAMI and the costs to be recovered, as well as the mechanisms for such recovery, including the possibility for a minimum cost recovery level (see also para. 29 below). Taking also into account the level of expenditure in 2020 and during the first half of 2021, the Committee recommends a reduction of 15 per cent, or \$158,800, from the total requirements for petrol, oil and lubricants.**

Other supplies, services and equipment

26. The proposal for other supplies, services and equipment amounts to \$2,037,100 and includes a provision of \$142,100 for training fees, supplies and services. Training requirements under this budget class represent an increase of \$5,500, or 4.0 per cent, compared with the 2021 appropriation, while expenditure amounted to \$25,900 in 2020 and \$31,000 as at 30 June 2021. **Taking into account the expansion of remote training during the pandemic, as well as the expenditure for training fees, supplies and services in 2020 and during the first half of 2021, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, or \$14,200, under other supplies, services and equipment related to training fees, supplies and services for UNAMI.**

27. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 23, 25 and 26 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for operational costs for 2022 for UNAMI.**

D. Other matters

Impact of the coronavirus disease pandemic

28. In his report, the Secretary-General indicated that during 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic had had an impact on the planned deliverables and activities of the Mission. Prevention measures, public offices being temporarily closed, lengthy lockdowns and a reduced Mission staffing footprint resulted in the delay of certain human rights capacity-building initiatives and programmes. At the same time, however, UNAMI engaged in new activities related to the pandemic, including outreach campaigns to enhance understanding of the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, some Mission activities, such as large events promoting peacebuilding and mediation, training and outreach, were successfully moved to online platforms (A/76/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.6, paras. 22 and 23).

Cost recovery and extrabudgetary resources

29. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI continued to provide residential accommodation, office space, air and ground transportation,

security as well as other ad hoc services to United Nations entities in Iraq, including UNITAD as well as agencies, funds and programmes, on a cost-reimbursable basis. The costs recovered in 2020 amounted to \$11.5 million, of which \$1.2 million related to services provided to UNITAD. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide more detailed information regarding cost recovery to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and in the context of future budget submissions (see also para. 25 above).** The Committee discusses cost recovery further in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

30. Regarding the Mission's extrabudgetary resources, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission was implementing five projects related to youth engagement, reconciliation and the inclusion and participation of women in political and electoral processes, totalling approximately \$700,000, funded through the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs multi-year appeal in support of Security Council resolutions [2576 \(2021\)](#) and [2107 \(2013\)](#). In addition, in line with the Mission's bolstered electoral assistance mandate pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution [2576 \(2021\)](#), the Mission was implementing a \$12 million project, partially funded through extrabudgetary resources and administered by the United Nations Office for Project Services, in support of the elections scheduled for October 2021. The Mission was also scaling up its technical assistance to the Independent High Electoral Commission and implementing one of the largest United Nations electoral projects worldwide, entirely funded through extrabudgetary resources and financially administered by the United Nations Development Programme. **The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving updated information in the context of the next budget submission.**

Gender balance

31. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 June 2021, 79 per cent of UNAMI civilian personnel were male and 21 per cent were female, reflecting no significant change in the gender representation over the past three years. Women staff accounted for 33 per cent of the encumbered positions at the P-5 level and above and 35 per cent at the P-2 to P-4 levels, while the percentage of women remained at or below 20 per cent for Field Service and national positions. Efforts to improve the gender representation in UNAMI included an updated gender parity implementation plan, which also examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on recruitment and working arrangements, as well as quarterly training sessions on gender mainstreaming and gender parity for all UNAMI staff. **The Advisory Committee trusts that greater efforts will be made to address the gender imbalance in the staffing of UNAMI (see [A/75/7/Add.7](#), para. 16).** The Committee discusses gender representation further in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

Geographical representation

32. In response to queries on the geographical distribution of UNAMI personnel by nationality, the Advisory Committee was provided instead with information on geographical representation by regional group. As at 30 June 2021, 83 staff were from the Asia-Pacific Group, 72 from the Western European and Others Group, 53 from the African Group, 39 from the Eastern European Group and 15 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group. The Committee discusses geographical representation further in its main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions ([A/76/7/Add.1](#)).

Integrated headquarters compound in Baghdad

33. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that all projects funded by the trust fund for the construction of an integrated compound in Baghdad had been completed, except for the refurbishment of the main office building, which was ongoing. As at 30 June 2021, the trust fund had been allotted a cumulative amount of \$54,699,194 (including interest earned on funds, totalling \$3,938,594), of which \$53,694,183 had been expended on various renovation projects, leaving an unspent budget of \$1,005,011. The unspent budget was earmarked for the completion of outstanding work and salary payments for staff for the rest of the year, with no expected balance at the end of 2021. There were also no savings projected to be realized upon completion of all construction projects funded by the trust fund.
