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## Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

### Report of the Fifth Committee

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

#### I. Introduction

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

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 33rd and 41st meetings, on 6 May and 3 July 2019. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 ([A/73/617](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 ([A/73/737](#));

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/73/755/Add.1](#)).

#### II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.41](#)

4. At its 41st meeting, on 3 July, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western

<sup>1</sup> [A/C.5/73/SR.33](#) and [A/C.5/73/SR.41](#).



Sahara” ([A/C.5/73/L.41](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Belgium.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.5/73/L.41](#) without a vote (see para. 6).

### III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

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

#### **Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara<sup>1</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* Security Council resolution [690 \(1991\)](#) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#) of 30 April 2019, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission until 31 October 2019,

*Recalling also* its resolution [45/266](#) of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution [72/301](#) of 5 July 2018, as well as its decision [72/558](#) of 5 July 2018,

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

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

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

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#) of 22 June 2005, [60/266](#) of 30 June 2006, [61/276](#) of 29 June 2007, [64/269](#) of 24 June 2010, [65/289](#) of 30 June 2011, [66/264](#) of 21 June 2012, [69/307](#) of 25 June 2015 and [70/286](#) of 17 June 2016, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 2019, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 43.3 million United States dollars, representing some 3.4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only 86 Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

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

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<sup>1</sup> [A/73/617](#) and [A/73/737](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/73/755/Add.1](#).

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

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

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of overall budgetary performance in peacekeeping operations and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement the recommendations of the relevant oversight bodies and to report thereon in the context of the performance reports;

10. *Also emphasizes* the importance of the accountability system of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen risk management and internal controls in the management of peacekeeping budgets and to report thereon in the context of his next report;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions [59/296](#), [60/266](#), [61/276](#), [64/269](#), [65/289](#), [66/264](#), [69/307](#) and [70/286](#);

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all action necessary to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

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

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018;<sup>3</sup>

#### **Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020**

14. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 60,453,700 dollars for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, inclusive of 56,347,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 3,191,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, 568,700 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and 345,900 dollars for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda;

#### **Financing of the appropriation**

15. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 20,151,234 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2019, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution [73/272](#) of 22 December 2018, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2019, as set out in its resolution [73/271](#) of 22 December 2018;

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<sup>3</sup> [A/73/617](#).

16. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 901,466 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 794,533 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 75,767 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 20,033 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 11,133 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

17. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 40,302,466 dollars for the period from 1 November 2019 to 30 June 2020, at a monthly rate of 5,037,808 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 73/272, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2019 and 2020, as set out in its resolution 73/271, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

18. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,802,934 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,589,067 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 151,533 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account, the prorated share of 40,067 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base and the prorated share of 22,267 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Regional Service Centre;

19. *Also decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 15 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 1,085,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 70/246 of 23 December 2015, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2018, as set out in its resolution 70/245 of 23 December 2015;

20. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other revenue in the amount of 1,085,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 19 above;

21. *Decides* that the increase of 109,400 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2018 shall be added to the credits in the amount of 1,085,600 dollars referred to in paragraphs 19 and 20 above;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Mission under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled “Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara”.

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