



# General Assembly

Seventy-fifth session

## Official Records

Distr.: General  
11 August 2021

Original: English

---

### Fifth Committee

#### Summary record of the 15th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 29 June 2021, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Amorín . . . . . (Uruguay)  
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Bachar Bong

### Contents

Agenda item 138: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*)

Agenda item 141: Programme budget for 2021 (*continued*)

Agenda item 146: Human resources management (*continued*)

Agenda item 154: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (*continued*)

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (*continued*)

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*)

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*)

Agenda item 163: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*)

Agenda item 165: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (*continued*)

Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section ([dms@un.org](mailto:dms@un.org)), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).



(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*)

Agenda item 167: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (*continued*)

Agenda item 168: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*)

Agenda item 169: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*)

Agenda item 170: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution [1863 \(2009\)](#) (*continued*)

Agenda item 154: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Agenda item 139: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

*Questions deferred for future consideration*

Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees (*continued*)

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee that some of the draft resolutions and decisions to be introduced had only recently been adopted informally, and were thus provisional and available in English only. With full regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, he acknowledged the Committee's flexibility in proceeding on that basis so as to conclude its work at the second part of the resumed session.

**Agenda item 138: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.48)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.48: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors*

2. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.48](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 141: Programme budget for 2021 (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.49)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.49: Special subjects relating to the programme budget for 2021*

3. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.49](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 146: Human resources management (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.33)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.33: Seconded active-duty military and police personnel*

4. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.33](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 154: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.32, A/C.5/75/L.34, A/C.5/75/L.35 and A/C.5/75/L.36)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.34: Support account for peacekeeping operations*

5. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.34](#) was adopted.

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.35: Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda*

6. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.35](#) was adopted.

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.36: Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy*

7. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.36](#) was adopted.

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.32: Closed peacekeeping missions*

8. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.32](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.38)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.38: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei*

9. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.38](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.39)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.39: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic*

10. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.39](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.40)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.40: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus*

11. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.40](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.41)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.41: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

12. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.41](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 163: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.42)**

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.42: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo*

13. Draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.42](#) was adopted.

**Agenda item 165: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.43)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.43: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali*

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.43 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East** (continued)

**(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.44)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.44: Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force*

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.44 was adopted.*

**(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon*

16. **The Chair** recalled that an initial version of the draft resolution, contained in document A/C.5/75/L.31, had been issued on 25 May 2021. The draft resolution currently before the Committee, contained in document A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1, included additional paragraphs of text, as well as the amounts representing the budget levels agreed by the Committee by consensus.

17. **Ms. Kaba Saleh** (Guinea), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and welcoming the information contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee regarding the financing of UNIFIL (A/75/772 and A/75/822/Add.14), said that, in response to General Assembly resolution 75/250, the Secretary-General had indicated that Israel had failed to pay \$1,117,005 due as accounts receivable for UNIFIL resulting from the tragic incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and that he had received no response to his subsequent letters addressed to the Permanent Mission of Israel in that regard, the latest dated 12 January 2021. The General Assembly, in the same resolution, had requested the Secretary-General to report to it on that matter at its seventy-fifth session. The Group of 77 and China was the sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1, notably the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 39.

18. **Ms. Zilbergeld** (Israel) said that the draft resolution proposed by the Group of 77 and China once again demonstrated that the working procedures of the Fifth Committee had been politicized to single out one Member State and that, rather than insisting on a change

to that pattern, the Committee was conducting business as usual. The process of approving budget proposals for peacekeeping missions should follow the long-standing professional and objective working methods of the Committee, and not the unjustified and deplorable biased approach directed at Israel year after year. That biased approach had no place in the Committee, and did not contribute to its responsibility or credibility. The position of Israel on the issue was well-known and had not changed. Israel completely and utterly rejected the false attempt to thwart the operating methods of the Committee.

19. Since February 2020, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had profoundly affected all aspects of life. The global crisis it had brought posed a major challenge for the international community. Only by working in partnership and solidarity could the international community meet that challenge. Israel hoped that ongoing vaccination programmes around the world, including the programmes to vaccinate United Nations peacekeeping forces, would help recovery efforts. As a host to peacekeeping operations and diplomatic missions, Israel, as part of its vaccination rollout campaign, had several months previously vaccinated United Nations peacekeeping troops, United Nations personnel and diplomats posted in the country.

20. The work of United Nations peacekeepers worldwide was significant and important. Israel had maintained, and continued to maintain, excellent relations with all the peacekeeping forces in the region. That included UNIFIL. It constantly demonstrated its unequivocal support for United Nations peacekeeping operations as a whole, and was grateful for the good work of all those who supported peacekeeping operations, whether at United Nations Headquarters or in the field. It thanked the brave women and men who took on the difficult, but extremely important, role of peacekeeping around the world, and to the troop- and police-contributing countries that dispatched and supported those individuals.

21. The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 39 of draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1 represented nothing more than an attempt to insert a political agenda into an otherwise non-political discussion of the budget of a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Her delegation was therefore proposing an oral amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1 consisting of the deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 39, and urged all Member States to support that step if a request was made for a recorded vote on the matter.

22. **Ms. Kaba Saleh** (Guinea), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group wished to request a recorded vote on the oral amendment to draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1](#) proposed by the representative of Israel. The Group urged all Member States to vote against the amendment.

23. **Mr. Kennedy** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his delegation supported UNIFIL in implementing its important mandate. The use of funding resolutions to pursue claims against a Member State, however, was procedurally incorrect, and his delegation opposed the inclusion in such resolutions of paragraphs that required Israel to meet the costs stemming from the Qana incident of 1996. Such resolutions were not consensus resolutions. The procedure followed since shortly after the founding of the United Nations had been for the Secretary-General to pursue settlement of the Organization's claims against States. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement was inappropriate, politicized the work of the Committee, and should be avoided on the present occasion and in the future.

24. *At the request of the representative of Guinea, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment to draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1](#) proposed by the representative of Israel.*

*In favour:*

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

*Against:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Abstaining:*

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

25. *The proposed oral amendment to draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1](#) was rejected by 75 votes to 3, with 48 abstentions.*

26. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution [A/C.5/75/L.3/Rev.1](#) as a whole.*

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



*Against:*

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

None.

27. *The draft resolution was adopted by 121 votes to 3.*

28. **Mr. Melo Gomes Oliveira** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the States members of the European Union were concerned at the trend towards voting on the agenda item pertaining to the financing of UNIFIL, because of political elements which continued to be introduced into the work of the Committee. They had abstained from the voting on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 39, as they considered the text inappropriate in the context of the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the events referred to, including the incident at Qana, had been debated extensively in the plenary Assembly in April 1996, and reflected in resolution 50/22 C, at which time the States members of the European Union had made clear their position. They would have preferred the Committee's consultations on the matter to have been confined to the budgetary aspects of the financing of UNIFIL, but had voted in favour of the resolution as a whole, as it provided for the appropriation of resources which were crucial to enable UNIFIL to fulfil its important mandate.

29. **Mr. Croker** (United Kingdom) said that, as the remit of the Fifth Committee was to address administrative and budgetary matters, the United Kingdom considered that the Committee should focus on such matters, and should refrain from addressing political issues under the purview of other United Nations forums. The United Kingdom wished to register its concern over the calling of a vote to introduce political elements into the resolution on the financing of UNIFIL, and had abstained in the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 39 of draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.31/Rev.1. The introduction of those elements was inappropriate. Consultations should have been confined to the financing aspects of UNIFIL. The United Kingdom had voted in favour of the resolution as a whole, in order to ensure the provision of adequate resources to enable UNIFIL to fulfil its mandate, a matter which was within the remit of the Committee.

**Agenda item 167: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.45)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.45: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan*

30. *Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.45 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 168: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.46)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.46: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara*

31. *Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.46 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 169: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.37)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.37: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur*

32. **The Chair**, recalling that the Committee had taken action on draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.30, entitled "Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur", on 14 May 2021 at its 13th meeting (see A/C.5/75/SR.13), invited it to take action on draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.37.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.37 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 170: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)** (continued) (A/C.5/75/L.47)

*Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.47: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)*

34. *Draft resolution A/C.5/75/L.47 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 154: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations** (continued) (A/C.5/75/24 and A/C.5/75/25)

35. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take note of the information in the Secretary-General's note on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (A/C.5/75/24), which, in accordance with the prorating procedures established in General Assembly resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share of the support account, the United Nations Logistics Base and the Regional Service Centre. He also invited the Committee to take note of the Secretary-General's note on approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 (A/C.5/75/25).

**Agenda item 139: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations** (*continued*)

*Questions deferred for future consideration*  
(A/C.5/75/L.50)

*Draft decision A/C.5/75/L.50: Questions deferred for future consideration*

36. *Draft decision A/C.5/75/L.50 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees** (*continued*)

37. **The Chair** said that the Group of Asia-Pacific States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Alateek (Saudi Arabia) for the remaining post of Vice-Chair of the Fifth Committee at its seventy-sixth session.

38. *Mr. Alateek (Saudi Arabia) was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for its seventy-sixth session by acclamation.*

**Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly**

39. **Ms. Kaba Saleh** (Guinea), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, while the second part of the resumed seventy-fifth session had been challenging, the Group welcomed its successful conclusion. The Committee had reached agreement on almost all the agenda items before it, deferring only four, and had avoided any shut-down of peacekeeping missions. The outcome of the resumed session would not have been possible without the utmost flexibility displayed by all delegations. Nevertheless, it was unfortunate that the Committee had once again been unable to adopt a resolution on cross-cutting issues relating to peacekeeping. The Group believed that the practice of adopting cross-cutting policies through individual resolutions on peacekeeping missions, thereby implementing cross-cutting policies in practice, prevented a deeper debate and a more fruitful outcome on those policies.

40. With peacekeeping being the largest and most visible representation of the work of the United Nations, the Group reaffirmed its position that peacekeeping missions must be adequately resourced for effective mandate delivery. It did not believe in arbitrary, across-the-board, cost-cutting exercises that failed to take into consideration the situation on the ground. It hoped that the outcome of the second part of the resumed session would enable the Secretariat and the peacekeeping missions to carry out their mandates fully. The Group also recognized the invaluable contribution of troop-

and police-contributing countries to the maintenance of international peace and security; it emphasized the importance of continued and close consultations between those countries and the Secretary-General regarding all peacekeeping-related matters.

41. The goal of reaching consensus on all items, while successful, had required extreme compromise. The Group believed that more satisfactory outcomes could have been achieved on matters such as closed peacekeeping missions, and regretted that claims payable to troop- and police-contributing countries remained unsettled after more than a decade. Those countries could not be expected to bear additional financial burdens, while placing the lives and livelihoods of their personnel at risk. The Committee must do more than simply state its commitment to resolving the issue, and the Group looked forward to more substantive and productive discussion of that matter at the next session. The Group welcomed the outcome of discussions on seconded personnel, and urged the Secretariat to take all measures to observe the terms of the relevant resolution.

42. With regard to oversight issues, the Group acknowledged the valuable contribution of the Board of Auditors to the work of the Organization, but noted that certain matters contained in the Board's report fell within the sole purview of the Member States. The Group also acknowledged the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and looked forward to receiving its evaluation of the completed flexible workplace project. The Group firmly believed that in-house staff had the capacity and competence to provide all necessary information to the Member States.

43. Looking ahead to seventy-sixth session, the Group reaffirmed its commitment to constructive engagement in the work of the Fifth Committee. As the pandemic situation improved, the Group looked forward to re-engaging in-person at United Nations Headquarters, and to being able to achieve more and better results for the Organization as a whole.

44. **Mr. Traore** (Mali), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that his Group had appreciated the positive and encouraging efforts of the Chair, even though virtual presence during the Committee's consultations, and the support of the Secretariat and delegations. The Group noted the continued challenge posed by the pandemic-related working arrangements, as virtual meetings and consultations prevented the creation or strengthening of the natural bond achieved through in-person attendance. It particularly regretted the lack of interpretation.

45. While recognizing the periodic difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Group reiterated its appeal for a structural change to the working methods of the Fifth Committee. Although the second part of the resumed session was officially allocated one month, that had stretched to two months in the past several years, creating the need for a reassessment of the situation. In addition, the Committee would benefit from an adjustment of its longstanding habit of starting the session at a moderate pace, only to concentrate all its energy on the last weeks or days of the session, leading to consecutive days and nights of consultations, with unnecessary and avoidable time pressure.

46. The Group welcomed the fact that all delegations and groups had been willing to engage in good faith in the renewed mission-by-mission approach to the consideration of budget proposals for peacekeeping operations. Despite the limitations of that approach during the session, chiefly because of time constraints, with the conclusion of consultations only a few hours previously, the outcome – which had required compromise and sacrifice from all sides – had been good, and had laid the foundation for forthcoming sessions.

47. As the second part of the resumed session focused on peacekeeping, the African Group paid tribute to all the men and women working in difficult situations in the field to further international peace and security. As representatives of Member States, of countries contributing resources and personnel, and of countries hosting peacekeeping missions, the members of the Committee owed it to those individuals to ensure their safety and security, and to provide all the resources needed for them to fulfil the duties entrusted to them for the sake of the population. In that connection, the Group deplored the “natural” tendency of the Committee to cut resources, despite the best efforts of the Secretary-General to present the most sincere and disciplined budget possible.

48. The African Group deeply regretted that serious and grave concerns regarding the United Nations Support Office in Somalia had not been taken into consideration by the Committee during its consultations. Although a number of forms of wording relating to the situation on the ground had been proposed, they had not met with agreement in the Committee. The Group trusted that the issue would be properly investigated.

49. **Mr. Camelli** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in

addition, Georgia, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that, as the second-largest collective contributors to the peacekeeping budgets of the United Nations, the European Union member States attached great importance to peace and security, a core pillar of the Organization. United Nations peacekeeping missions delivered stability and protection to some of the most vulnerable people around the world, and it was the responsibility of the Committee to provide the sustainable and predictable resources necessary for the fulfilment of the missions’ mandates. Ensuring that peacekeeping operations remained adequately financed and sufficiently equipped was key to serving the people who – now more than ever – needed the United Nations.

50. In the light of the current session, three aspects of the Committee’s working methods deserved particular attention. First, the European Union regretted that, for yet another year, and despite a comprehensive and balanced approach to proposing policy wording, no substantive outcome could be achieved in the context of the resolution on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping. The European Union believed that, in order to ensure that peacekeeping was in a position to succeed in an increasingly complex environment, the Committee should provide guidance to the Secretariat on a number of crucial matters, including – to name only a few – environmental protection, sexual exploitation and abuse, safety and security of peacekeepers and mission performance. The adoption of horizontal policy wording in the resolutions on the budgets for individual missions was only a temporary remedy, de facto excluding many delegations from participating in consultations and therefore diminishing the quality, representativeness and legitimacy of the outcome of the session. The European Union therefore looked forward to re-engaging on, and concluding discussion of, those matters under the more inclusive and transparent format of cross-cutting issues at the next session.

51. Second, the European Union was deeply concerned that the Committee’s working methods had been an obstacle to timely adoption of the budgets for the peacekeeping missions, creating a risk of the Secretary-General being compelled to shut down the Organization’s peacekeeping operations. The Committee’s chronic inability to respect deadlines put the entire peacekeeping architecture in unprecedented jeopardy. The exceptional circumstances under which the Committee had been conducting its consultations could only partly explain the situation, as discussion of the peacekeeping missions’ budgets for the previous year had also been conducted in entirely virtual format, yet had finished on time. The core issue was working methods: the Committee had extended its proceedings



for a full month beyond their scheduled end-date. That had subjected the Secretariat to conflicting instructions and undue pressure to accommodate, at the same time, meetings of the Board of Auditors, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Committee on Contributions, and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, while taking action to close financial statements. In the light of those conditions, the European Union wished to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Secretariat staff to avoid a shutdown of peacekeeping operations. The members of the Committee owed it to themselves, to the Secretariat staff whose work was instrumental for the implementation of the Committee's decisions, but also to the women and men in the field who implemented peacekeeping mandates, to conclude the Committee's work in a timely fashion.

52. Third, the European Union regretted that the Committee had not adhered to the tentative agreement regarding the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe. In a body in which consensus was the norm, and trust the key, an "all-or-nothing" approach was neither fair nor balanced, and undermined hard work and engagement aimed at bridging gaps and building consensus. The European Union hoped to see a return to more constructive approaches, and thanked the delegations that had shown openness and flexibility.

53. The European Union and its member States were grateful to all delegations for their continued political will to find agreed and pragmatic outcomes for the budgets of the peacekeeping missions. Their ability to act together had prevailed in the face of difficult circumstances, and the Committee had been able to meet its responsibilities, in the interests of the Organization. In that regard, the European Union reiterated its strong and continued commitment to reaching decisions by consensus, a principle that underpinned the working methods of the Committee.

54. **Mr. Galoumian** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the Committee, despite the difficulties of remote working conditions for the second year in a row, had achieved consensus on a range of important peacekeeping-related items, including long-standing issues such as the secondment of active-duty military and police personnel. Australia, Canada and New Zealand thanked all delegations for their engagement and flexibility throughout the session. The Committee, through united effort, had ensured that United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to be adequately financed and resourced to deliver on their mandates at a time of uncertainty.

55. However, it was unfortunate that there had been delays in achieving consensus on the vast majority of agenda items. As the Controller had reminded the Committee the previous week, its late decisions had a negative impact on the administration of the Organization, bringing unnecessary uncertainty to peacekeeping operations and placing unreasonable demands on United Nations staff. It was also a matter of disappointment that, for the fifth consecutive year, the Committee had been unable to achieve consensus on its resolution regarding cross-cutting policy issues. The last such resolution, which provided guidance to peacekeeping operations on important elements such as combatting sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians and enhancing performance and accountability, now dated back to 2016.

56. In the absence of a resolution on cross-cutting issues, the Member States had opted to address policy issues in a small-group format in the context of budget discussions. That informal process was not inclusive and was inadequate for the task of meeting the needs of communities served by United Nations peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping policy issues were undoubtedly complex. Although views and interests differed across the Committee, it was the Committee's duty to seek consensus through compromise, by starting early, thinking creatively and engaging constructively. It could no longer afford to accept the continuing deferral of that agenda item as a *fait accompli*.

57. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to engaging, in a spirit of compromise, on all policy issues connected with United Nations peacekeeping, and were willing to hold constructive discussions aimed at improving the working methods of the Fifth Committee. As the second part of the resumed session focused on peacekeeping operations, the three delegations also wished to pay tribute to the men and women who served in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world.

58. **Mr. Mmalane** (Botswana) said that, as the second part of the resumed session concluded, it was important to recognize the resilience of the Fifth Committee in executing its mandate of overseeing administrative and budgetary matters. His delegation was proud to be an active member of the Committee, and welcomed its accomplishments during the session. In addition to approval of the overall peacekeeping budget, those accomplishments had included discussion of human resources management matters, including addressing the increasing number of vacancies, working for equitable geographical representation across all United Nations offices, especially in the field, promoting the nationalization of functions and the building of local

capacity, and conducting outreach, with the aim of increasing the representation of national staff.

59. He was pleased at the Committee's decisions regarding the secondment of military and police personnel; preparedness for future pandemics and epidemics; the health, safety and protection of civilian and uniformed personnel; the importance of exploring further innovative ways of promoting procurement from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and the call for greater partnership with regional and subregional organizations, in the light of their role in the peace process.

60. He recalled the contribution to mission mandates – including the prevention and resolution of conflicts – made by programmatic activities and quick-impact projects; the importance of the women, peace and security agenda; greater accountability and oversight in peacekeeping missions and efforts to reduce the overall environmental footprint of missions (including environmentally responsible waste management and power generation).

61. In the context of the Group of 77 and China and the Group of African States, Botswana attached significance to all those issues, but especially to ensuring that the United Nations peacekeeping budget was commensurate with the mandates of the peacekeeping missions. Botswana would remain steadfast in supporting the greater cause of the Organization, working with everyone in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility, accommodating the views and opinions of all, so as to see a United Nations that was tolerant, diverse, proactive, and better prepared to deal with future pandemics and epidemics, while also promoting peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. The Committee should ensure that its work always served the greater good, and that nobody was left behind.

62. **Mr. Abdullah** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation welcomed the successful conclusion of the second part of the resumed session, achieved thanks to the efforts of the delegations, the Bureau and the Secretariat in the face of the challenges of the pandemic. That provided proof of the ability of the Member States to come together to fulfil their responsibilities in the interest of the Organization, and of the Fifth Committee's resilience and commitment to its mandate.

63. It was positive that the Committee had successfully maintained its long tradition of consensus-based decision-making for most of the items on its agenda. As the most prominent of the troop- and police-contributing countries, Bangladesh was pleased that the Committee had reached consensus on key budgetary allocations proposed by the Secretary-General, ensuring

adequate financing of peacekeeping at a time of great uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensuring that peacekeeping missions could meet their mandate to work for peace, stability and security in conflict-prone countries and regions.

64. The General Assembly financing decisions must now be implemented fully, faithfully and transparently, while ensuring that peacekeeping missions were managed in an accountable and efficient way. Full and timely payment of assessed contributions would enable expeditious reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries for the support that they supplied in the form of personnel and equipment.

65. **Mr. Kimura** (Japan) said that the provision of adequate financing for the peacekeeping missions, particularly at a time of uncertainty, enabled those missions not only to continue to deliver their critical mandates, but also to ensure the safety, security, and health of their personnel. His delegation especially welcomed the concrete progress made regarding effective and efficient use of resources, including the issue of posts that had remained vacant for 24 months or longer. Although unable to adopt a resolution on cross-cutting issues, the Committee had still been able to provide guidance to the Secretariat on a wide range of significant policy-related matters. His delegation hoped the General Assembly's calls to enhance transparency, accountability and management would be followed up and fully implemented by the Organization.

66. It was unfortunate that the Committee had not managed to conclude the second part of the resumed session within the time officially allocated to it. The delegation of Japan wished to encourage all delegations to make efforts to improve efficiency by taking advantage of the current remote working methods where appropriate. Moreover, working late into the night and early morning should be the exception rather than the rule for decision-making in the Committee.

67. **Mr. Kennedy** (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to reiterate the commitment of the United States to the uniformed and civilian women and men who continued to risk their lives in peacekeeping operations around the world. The Fifth Committee supported international peace and security by ensuring that peacekeeping operations were effective and efficient at meeting their mandates, including protecting and promoting human rights. His delegation noted that the total financial allocation approved by the Committee for 11 active missions, three support entities, and one mission in drawdown, represented a \$23 million reduction from the level proposed by the Advisory

Committee and was \$84 million below the level proposed by the Secretary-General.

68. Recalling that the Committee had been unable to adopt a resolution on cross-cutting policy issues at the session, instead placing policy-related wording in each individual financing resolution, he expressed the hope that that approach would be reconsidered, and that the Committee would work towards adopting a resolution on cross-cutting issues the following year. Policy-related wording was important, because the challenges facing peacekeeping could not be overcome using resources alone.

69. Nonetheless, the United States delegation was pleased to draw attention to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, recognizing that full implementation of the agenda by peacekeeping missions contributed to sustainable peace and political solutions. It was also pleased to highlight the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System; it looked forward to having more robust, impact-based, performance indicators, and the resources required for each mandated task.

70. The work of the Committee required all of its members to negotiate in good faith, to respect agreements reached, and to honour the commitments made. Trust enabled the Committee to function, and to reach consensus-based decisions. When a budget sum or a policy paragraph was agreed upon by all groups, that agreement should be honoured, and not reneged upon later if a delegation felt that it had not achieved its goals in a separate agenda item. Nor should the Advisory Committee be turned into a weapon. The Committee's goal should always be the broadest possible consensus.

71. **Mr. Croker** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was pleased that the Committee had been able to steer its complex deliberations – once again carried out remotely – towards adequate, cost-effective financing for peacekeeping operations. The United Kingdom wished to reiterate its support for resources that were efficiently managed, enabled full mandate delivery, and were consistent with agreed reforms and policy priorities. However, it regretted that the late conclusion of the Committee's work had jeopardized the continuous operation of peacekeeping operations. In their statements, the members of the Committee had paid tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel who supported United Nations peacekeeping operations, but they must ensure that their words matched their actions, and that the pace and progress of future discussions supported the contribution that the personnel of the missions made to international peace and security, and did not put that contribution at risk. The Committee can and should do better.

72. It was a matter of disappointment that the Committee had once again been unable to agree a resolution on cross-cutting policy issues. His delegation hoped that the constructive discussions regarding that item at the current session would pave the way for such a resolution at the next session. However, valuable policy guidance had been agreed, covering important topics such as mission performance; safety and security; accountability; protection of civilians; women, peace and security; and environmental impacts. Recalling that peacekeeping was the highest contributor to climate change within the United Nations system, his delegation hoped that agreement would be reached at a future date on enhancing energy efficiency, given the importance that the General Assembly had placed on addressing that huge challenge.

73. While the agreement reached on wording regarding prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse was positive, the lack of agreement on a cross-cutting resolution on that matter was unfortunate. His delegation regretted that constructive, advanced negotiations on the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe had culminated in an outcome which had not gone beyond the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, failing therefore to reflect fully the positive engagement from the delegations with substantive interest in those matters.

74. With regard to matters outside peacekeeping, his delegation took the view that the Committee's agreement on the flexible workplace would offer the Secretary-General enough time to assess properly the evolving needs of the Organization. That was important to shape a response to the new ways of working presented by the pandemic, and to seek to maximize the opportunities that those new methods provided. His delegation greatly appreciated the work of the Committee to agree constructively a way forward on the issue of seconded personnel. In general terms, the United Kingdom hoped that the Committee would continue to support more effective working methods, learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic experience, and taking measures to avoid late-night and weekend working wherever possible, as well as continuing to build trust and collaboration in pursuit of consensus-based decision-making.

75. **Mr. Cheng Lie** (China) said that continuous efforts should be made to improve the financial situation of the United Nations. Funding was a foundation of, and an important element in underpinning, the Organization's governance. The approval of the budget allocations for peacekeeping provided the material basis for peacekeeping operations to fulfil the mandates stemming

from Security Council resolutions. The long-standing problem of outstanding assessments should not be ignored.

76. Measures such as delays in reimbursements to the troop- and police-contributing countries; allowing cross-borrowing between the budgets of peacekeeping missions; using the consolidated net cash balance of closed peacekeeping operations; and proposing to use the peacekeeping reserve fund to alleviate the liquidity crisis, worked against fundamentally improving the financial situation of the United Nations, and would encourage the continuation of long-term arrears and produce other negative effects. The fundamental solution was to urge the major country in arrears to fulfil its financial obligations in full and on time.

77. The Fifth Committee should continue to uphold professionalism, fairness and justice. As one of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, it was important for promoting multilateralism. The Committee should perform its financial-management functions without making exceptions or employing double standards. His delegation was disappointed to see that, with regard to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), one Member State had taken a different approach. Its outstanding contributions to UNMIK represented about 80 per cent of the appropriation for that mission's annual budget, seriously affecting the implementation of its mandate. The long-standing inability to complete settlement of the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations harmed the internal governance of the Organization's financial discipline; the Fifth Committee must find a way forward in that regard. The renewed failure of the Committee to reach agreement regarding peacekeeping-related cross-cutting issues was not in the interests of the Member States and should be a trigger for further reflection and improvement.

78. The Secretariat should continue to strengthen budget management and financial discipline. Effective implementation of the accountability system and improvement of internal control were paramount, and every penny of Member State taxpayers' money should be well managed. His delegation had noted the issues raised by the Board of Auditors in connection with the financial management of the Secretariat, and had found some of the Board's findings shocking. During the disposal of assets of a closing peacekeeping mission, a substantial volume of assets had been sold at extremely low prices, causing huge financial losses. No convincing explanation had been provided; that situation did not comply with the Organization's financial and assets-management regulations, and also went against the original intention of the information and management project in which Member States had invested huge financial resources. Such issues must be investigated

and dealt with seriously. China supported the Board of Auditors in continuing with the implementation of its mandate as a crucial independent oversight body.

79. The work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed session was nearing completion. For more than a year, its working methods had been severely affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic situation improved, the Committee should consider improving its working methods, taking into account its heavy future workload. Virtual meetings reduced travel, saved time, and could be conducted with connections to multiple locations around the world. Those methods had certain advantages, and could continue to be promoted for some meetings, as appropriate.

80. **The Chair** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the second part of the resumed seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.*