

Opening statement to the Fifth Committee  
Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations  
for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019  
(A/74/5 (Vol. II))

May 2020

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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Chairman Mr. Kay Scheller, President of the German Federal Court of Auditors and the other Board members Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi, Comptroller and Auditor General of India and Mr. Jorge Bermúdez, Comptroller General of the Republic of Chile, I am pleased to introduce the Report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

The Board has issued an unqualified opinion. The financial statements present, in all material respects, the financial position of the United Nations peacekeeping operations as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IPSAS.

On a general note,

There were systematic errors in the census data submitted to the actuarial valuation of the HPSOR\HH EHQHILW OLDELWLHV 8SRQ WKH %RDUG¶V L correct wrong staff service and participation data. It has increased the service health insurance liabilities by \$100 million based on United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund data which was available on short notice. However, the Board stresses that this can only be a first step. United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund data is suitable for an estimation but does not fully match times of service eligible for after-service health insurance. The Administration committed to obtain the exact staff service and participation data before next full actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2021. The Board will monitor the process and assess how the exact data affects the liabilities.

The Administration stated liquidity problem. The Board holds that a liquidity assessment needs an accurate overview on the number of bank accounts, their balances and transactions. The Administration operated 263 bank accounts without having a complete overview. The Board identified a lack of management and reconciliation of bank balances.

The Administration reimburses troop-contributing countries for providing adequately trained troops to peacekeeping missions. The Board found that according to Missions

A Mission needed attack helicopters. Those that were provided by a Troop Contributing Country via UN Headquarters did not perform. Even though the Mission requested their repatriation, UN Headquarters decided to keep them. The Board recommended that the Administration ensure that Missions have the units and equipment they need.

The Board identified a backlog of Memorandums of understanding which govern reimbursement and deployment of contingents' equipment or troops. It recommended establishing appropriate key performance indicators and engaging with the respective Troop Contributing Countries to minimize the backlog.

The Board found that MONUSCO closed eight field locations without exercising any administrative oversight and generating any income from the sale of assets. All assets were donated or disposed of.

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