



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

74th Session of the General Assembly

Fifth Committee

Second Resumed Session

Agenda item 157

Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

New York

May 2020

We thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the ACABQ, for their respective reports.

of the international staff. Also, the use of excessive force against UNMIK's personnel, usurpation of the Mission's property and the continuation of criminal prosecution had been in breach of the legal framework, including UNSCR 1244 (1999), UNMIK's rules and regulations and the international standards in the field of human rights.

The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) in Pristina also violated UNSCR 1244 (1999) when they resorted to a unilateral decision to "transform" the "Kosovo Security Force" into the "Army of Kosovo", regardless of the warnings of the United Nations, the European Union and NATO. This dangerous step threatened the security in the Province and the region and went a long way towards worsening the situation of the Serbian and other non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija. Let me point out that KFOR is the only legal military force in the Province and the only guarantor of security and survival of the Serbs and their property and religious and cultural heritage in Kosovo and Metohija.

Serbia reacted responsibly to all PISG unilateral and discriminatory acts, took no counter-measures and acted as a reliable partner contributing to the stabilization of the situation and creating conditions for an unimpeded continuation of the dialogue. On the contrary, the PISG continues with flagrant violations of the agreements reached within the Brussels dialogue thus far and continues to display unwillingness to engage in dialogue, clearly shown by the decision to introduce tariffs on goods from central Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2018, which caused enormous political and economic damage not only to Serbia, but also to the entire region, as well as effectively blocked the dialogue. We hope that, once the pandemic is over, conditions will be created for the continuation of the dialogue in which it will be essential for Pristina to revoke the tariffs and remove the so-called reciprocal measures, which entirely negate and void the agreements reached in Brussels since 2012.

Serbia continues to call for a return to dialogue and a refrain from unilateral acts. More than ever before, the ongoing situation shows us that we have to rely on one another and that we must work together and be inter-connected. Regrettably, the prevalent political atmosphere in Pristina led to the situation in which even Serbia's assistance and solidarity rendered in the context of the fight against the coronavirus is being politicized and used for brutal achievements reached

As it did in the past, Serbia will continue to call, if not for an increase in, then at least for the maintenance of the present level of the UNMIK's budget. We must not lose sight of the possibility that any further deterioration of the situation in the field would cost us dearly and we should therefore continue to point to the need of providing the Mission with adequate personnel and financial capacities. It is of crucial importance to make sure that the Mission has sufficient financial and human resources in order to be able to contribute, as mandated, to the stabilization of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija in a