

NEPAL

Nepal Issue Paper # 06

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTERNET ACCESS

1. ISSUE PAPER THEME

Self-Sustainment

2. SUMMARY / BACKGROUND / PREVIOUS HISTORY

Reliable internet connectivity has become an operational necessity in modern peacekeeping missions. Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs) are required to provide internet services under the self-sustainment category to support command and control functions, mission reporting, administrative coordination, and peacekeeper welfare.

While the United Nations increased the reimbursement rate for internet access from USD \$4 to \$6 per person per month in July 2023, this amount remains insufficient to cover actual operating costs, particularly in remote, conflict-affected, or logistically challenging environments such as Zamio (CAR), Fataki (DR Congo), or other isolated deployment zones where internet access requires satellite connectivity and expensive infrastructure.

Most TCCs rely on a mix of satellite-based internet (e.g. Starlink) and local Internet Service Providers (ISPs), both of which can incur high setup and monthly service fees. For example, establishing reliable internet across three locations for 400 personnel typically exceeds \$1,200–\$1,500 per month, excluding the initial hardware and installation costs.

The current reimbursement rate does not reflect the true cost of providing adequate internet infrastructure, which places a financial strain on contributing countries and risks degrading mission performance.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

To enhance the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping missions and ensure adequate internet service provision, the following amendments are proposed:

1. Increase reimbursement rate for internet access: under the self-sustainment the rate of reimbursement for internet access to be increased from USD 6.00 to USD 10.00 per person per month. This adjustment is essential to align the reimbursement with the actual costs incurred by TCCs in providing internet services in diverse and often challenging operational environments.
2. Recognize internet services as a fundamental operational and welfare requirement: within peacekeeping missions. Reliable internet connectivity is crucial for maintaining troop morale and ensuring that peacekeepers can effectively communicate and access necessary resources, thereby supporting their overall well-being.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Increasing the reimbursement rate for internet access to be increased from USD 6.00 to USD 10.00 per person per month would result in an approximate increase of \$4 per troop in the internet reimbursement budget. While this adjustment represents a modest increase, it is essential when considering the critical support that internet connectivity provides to operational efficiency, digital reporting, and troop welfare. Furthermore, costs would remain predictable and manageable, as the internet reimbursement is capped under the self-sustainment category.

5. PROPOSED 2026 COE MANUAL TEXT

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Internet services provided by TCCs under the self-sustainment internet access shall be reimbursed at a rate of **USD \$10 per person per month**.

Similar changes should be made in other relevant pages.