

RWANDA

REVIEW OF REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR TENTAGE IN RELATION TO THE SHORTER USAGE ON THE INITIAL DEPLOYMENT

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

In most cases, during the initial deployment, TCCs are requested to provide tentage as temporary accommodation facility to house its personnel and also to avail a workspace such as office, gym, workshop, etc, for an initial period of six months, after which the UN takes over the responsibility and provides long-term accommodation to the unit.

When a TCC prepares the COE, they acquire all the major and self-sustainment according to the COE Manual including the tentage as a new unit prepares to be accommodated in tents while waiting for a long term structure to be built by the mission in a period not exceeding 6 months.

After providing a long term accommodation, the UN ceases to reimburse the TCC, and the latter is advised to repatriate its tents to the home country or to re-negotiate the inclusion in the MOU as deployable tents under Major equipment. This involves huge financial losses to the TCCs.

2. BACKGROUND

The COE manual provides the tentage accommodation standards as a requisite for reimbursement, which include flooring, heating and cooling system among others; and constitute additional costs to the TCCs. In the instance the UN provides accommodation after six months, one year or so, the deployed accommodation tents and associated equipment (air conditioning) become futile and the TCC loses financial reimbursement; since it cannot cover the tentage costs in such a shorter period of time.

The deployable tents have a life span of 5 years according to the COE Manual but they are reimbursed only for 6 months. The TCC will never recover the investment made on tentage.

3. DETAILED PROPOSAL

To avoid such financial loss, alternative options could be the increase of reimbursement rates of tentage accommodation to a reasonable rate such that the overall cost is covered in six months or one year; or the reimbursement continues to reach the estimated useful life of tentage as set in the COE Manual. In this context, the estimated useful life of deployable tents under Major Equipment could be considered for cost-recovery basis.

Alternatively, the UN may establish a residual/salvage value and reimbursement rate of tented accommodation based on personnel strength accommodated in the tentage and the estimated useful life of tents.

Rwanda would therefore be grateful if the issue is discussed in the upcoming COE WG to hear views and proposed solutions from other TCCs.

