

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 134

Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions

Request for a subvention to the Special Court for

Sierra Leone

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Ms. María Eugenia Casar

Assistant-Secretary-General, Controller

16 December 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to introduce two reports of the Secretary-General: Review of funding and backstopping special political missions and the Request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone contained in documents A/66/340 and A/66/563 respectively.

Review of funding and backstopping special political missions (A/66/340)

The report on Review of funding and backstopping special political missions is submitted pursuant to a request of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010.

The report outlines a number of problems faced by the Secretariat in dealing with special political missions, and presents a number of options for funding arrangement and backstopping for the consideration of the General Assembly.

This report encompasses two different sets of issues: a) funding arrangements with structural implications; and b) urgent operational aspects.

Funding arrangements

With regard to the funding arrangement, the Secretary-General proposes two possible options.

As an alternative to the existing funding arrangement, it is proposed to establish a special and separate account for the funding of special political missions that would be budgeted, funded and reported upon on an annual basis with a financial period of 1 July - 30 June.

As another possible option, it is also proposed to segregate the budgets of special political missions and to place them under a different section of the programme budget, and to present the budgets for SPMs on an annual basis.

Arrangements for funding during transition from PKOs to SPMs

As regards the improvement of funding arrangement during the transition from peacekeeping operations to SPMs, the Secretary-General proposes to the General Assembly to authorize SPMs to access the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund on the same basis as peacekeeping operations.

The Secretary-General also proposes another option for the General Assembly to consider increasing the level of his current commitment authority for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses from the \$10 million per decision of the Security Council to \$50 million, with the concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

Both of these options would allow rapid response to the changing resource needs of special political missions during their start-up, expansion or transition phases.

Funding of backstopping requirements

As regards the backstopping of special political missions, the Secretary-General proposes four options as follows:

- (a) Making the support account for peacekeeping operations available for variable backstopping requirements of special political missions;
- (b) Using the special separate account, if approved by the General Assembly, to fund the support account for peacekeeping operations and the Global Service Centre based on the size of the SPM budgets as a percentage of the combined budgets for special political missions and peacekeeping operations;
- (c) Charging variable backstopping requirements to SPM budgets themselves; and
- (d) Including SPM backstopping capacity within the support account for peacekeeping and the capacity of the Global Service Centre, to which the programme budget would contribute based on the size of the SPM budgets as a percentage of the combined budgets for SPMs and peacekeeping operations.

Request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone (A/66/563).

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished members of the Committee,

The second report before you is A/66/563 contains a request for a subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, by which the Assembly, inter alia, took note of the resource requirements of the Special Court for Sierra Leone until its closure, and authorized the Secretary-General, as an exceptional measure, to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$9,882,594 to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the same resolution.

It is recalled that, in his letter of 29 October 2010 to the President of the Security Council (S/2010/560), the Secretary-General brought to the attention of the Council the funding difficulties of the Special Court of Sierra Leone, corresponding to \$18.4 million in shortfall until its closure, and indicated if the Council would invite him to bring the matter to the attention of the General Assembly with a view to seeking appropriation of funds for the Court.

In his response of 29 October 2010 (S/2010/561), the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council had no objection to the latter's proposal with regard to supplementing voluntary contributions, also indicating that it was not expected that there will be additional subventions for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and that the United Nations Secretariat, the Management Committee and the Registrar and other senior officials of the Special Court will intensify their efforts to fund the activities of the Court through voluntary contributions.

As reported previously in the Secretary-General's report A/65/570, the Court was to complete its work by 29 February 2012. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, the Court will be unable to complete its mandate by February 2012 and consequently requires additional time and financial support for its activities through July 2012, the anticipated date when the Court will complete its work.

The present report updates the status of the Court's activities and sets out the total level of resources for the Court including subvention requested for the period from January to July 2012, estimated at \$9,066,400. This reflects an increase of \$6,709,650 in subvention over the \$2,356,750 previously estimated for the two-month period in 2012.

The approval of a subvention of up to \$9,066,400 is sought from the General Assembly for the period January to July 2012 taking into account that there were no balances in voluntary contributions to the Court as of end-October 2011.

The amount being sought in the present report would be adjusted should there be future receipt of voluntary contributions to the Court. It is proposed that the requested amount of

\$9,066,400 be charged against the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2012-2013.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.
