



BRAZIL

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Fifth Committee

Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

**Special political missions: estimates in respect of matters of
which the Security Council is seized**

Statement by Mr. João Augusto Costa Vargas

Second Secretary

Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Chile, on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC.

Under this agenda item, we will approve the budgets for Security Council mandates that seek to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in some of the most sensitive and volatile areas in the world today. Special Political Missions are entrusted to promote the core values of dialogue, negotiation and institutional support.

Conflict prevention and mediation are important diplomatic instruments for the promotion of peace. They are means to achieve the peaceful settlement of disputes, in line with the Charter. We must give them our full support. My delegation would therefore like to begin by paying tribute to the women and men who, through their work in and in support of special political missions, contribute the UN's work for promoting peace in these places.

Over the coming weeks, we will analyze and approve the budgets for the Office of the Joint UN-League of Arab States Special Envoy for Syria; the Office of the Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan; the UN Support Mission in Libya; and the UN Political Office in Somalia. As we do so, we must strive to ensure that resources are allocated and used in the most efficient and effective possible way.

Our main concern, as always, should be to provide the UN with the means it requires to fulfill its ambitious mandates. Those missions are mandated with helping to avoid further conflict in some of the most complex and fragile situations currently under the purview of the Council. Their success may enhance the chances for stability and durable peace, with important repercussions also the UN budget. It is less onerous to invest in the fulfillment of their mandates than resorting to more expensive initiatives to avoid relapses into or aggravation of conflicts.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to make a few general comments on special political missions.

Budgeting UN field presence would benefit should there be more clarity in the assignment of a peacekeeping operation or a special political mission. A clear distinction between them would both serve the interests of transparency and those of best provision for the concrete operational challenges these missions face.

The limitations resulting from the backstopping arrangements for special political missions need to be addressed. The current arrangements adopted for the funding of these missions have to be considered in the budgetary process in a more transparent and rational way.

Special political missions' accomplishments would certainly be enhanced if resources and mechanisms were granted to their operational effectiveness. As mandates and the safety of UN personnel itself become more complex, observance of the relevant General Assembly Resolutions is of the essence.

Transitions from peacekeeping into special political mission also deserve considerate attention, as a number of essential support mechanisms can be dismissed overnight, while challenges on the ground remain.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to address the question of the backstopping system for SPMs in order to provide the Organization with more efficient means to maintain international peace and security. Given the importance of the issues at stake, we should strive to take a decision on this matter before the end of 2012.

Thank you.