



**Agenda item 134**  
**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**

**Limited budgetary discretion (A/70/396)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
10 November 2015

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour of introducing the Secretary-General's report on Limited Budgetary Discretion. The Limited Budgetary Discretion mechanism is a facility that allows the Secretary-General to use anticipated overall under-expenditure for newly emerging needs resulting from natural disasters or unforeseen obstacles, to fully or better implement existing mandates without seeing additional resources.
2. The mechanism has the potential to create a win-win situation when speed is of the essence. The fact that it has not been used during the current and last biennia means that the mechanism is being managed prudently and it is only applied when all the principles of the General Assembly and the criteria set by the Secretary-General are adhered to.
3. The report before you reflects our effort to further refine these criteria, to distinguish it more clearly from the other mechanisms for which the Secretary-General can seek additional resources, in particular, under the arrangements of the Contingency Fund or Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses.
4. The Secretary General sees merit in continuing the discretionary authority as it may well be an opportune or a necessary option to overcome unforeseen obstacles to

fully implement existing mandates, or to enable the resumption of operations in a safe and secure environment following a natural or man made disaster.

5. We therefore propose that the mechanism be maintained, under the current arrangements, as set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/283.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.