



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

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives
authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council**

(A/70/348)

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (A/70/348/Add.5)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller
8 December 2015

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Chapeau of the reports of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, contained in document A/70/348.
2. The budget proposals for 36 special political missions contained in the seven addenda of document A/70/348, amount to a total of \$571.4 million which represents 50.8 per cent of the provision of \$1.1 billion for special political missions included under Section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/264.
3. As in the past, the budget proposals for special political missions for 2016 are organized in thematic clusters, while the budgets for larger missions, namely, UNAMA and UNAMI, are presented in separate addenda. The report on thematic cluster I includes the budgets of special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General; the report on thematic cluster II includes the budgets of sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and the report on thematic cluster III

includes the budgets of political offices, peacebuilding support offices and integrated offices. For 2016, the budget proposal for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen in cluster I and the resources for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) – United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in cluster II are presented in separate addenda.

4. The proposed resources for 11 special political missions under thematic cluster I amount to \$38.3 million, while the requirements for 15 special political missions under thematic cluster II amount to \$39.6 million. The proposed resources for the 8 special political missions under thematic cluster III amount to \$190.1 million. The resources for UNAMA and UNAMI amount to \$183.3 million and \$120.1 million, respectively.

5. The proposed number of civilian personnel for 2016 totals to 3,648 positions, reflecting an overall reduction of 92 positions, including discontinuation of 90 positions under the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUM) and a net reduction of 2 positions under the on-going missions.

6. We continue to make efforts to improve the format and presentation of budgets for special political missions. For instance, the Chapeau for 2016 includes the summaries of the main factors contributing to significant variances between the appropriations and projected expenditures for 2014-2015, as well as variances between approved resources for 2015 and proposed resources for 2016. Such efforts will continue.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

7. Let me now turn to the 2016 budget proposal for UNAMI contained in the addendum 5 of the document A/70/348. Last July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2233, which extended UNAMI's mandate for another year, specifically expressing concern regarding the situation of over three million IDPs and refugees and the targeting of women and girls for human rights abuses and condemning the destruction of cultural heritage by ISIL. In addition, the Council also welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation to revise and prioritize the Mission's tasks. In response to resolution 2233, the Mission has commenced a process towards implementing these priority activities

in full consultation with the Government of Iraq and in response to its needs and the evolving situation in the country.

8. The requirements for UNAMI for 2016 amount to \$120 million, a decrease of \$16 million from the previous year. The staffing requirements amount to 879 civilian staff positions, a reduction of 21 positions.

9. The 2016 requirements of the 36 special political missions amounting to \$571.4 million would be charged against the provision for special political missions included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

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