



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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**Statement by Mr. Hajime Kishimori
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**Agenda item 134: Program Budget 2016-2017:
Special Political Missions (SPMs)**

**Main Part of the Seventieth Session
Of Fifth Committee of the General Assembly
8 December 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for introducing their respective reports on this agenda item.

On the estimates in respect of Special Political Missions, Good Offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, Japan reiterates its strong support for each of the SPMs' respective mandates.

Today's world challenges us with a broad range of demands in the field of peace and security, yet the severe fiscal constraints of the Member States require us to respond with very limited resources. In light of this reality, the most effective approach for these challenges is to seek the right balance of the UN's various tools and instruments for peace and security, including both SPMs and PKOs, in order that their full comparative advantages may be employed. Such a need also underscores the importance of timely and smooth transitions between different UN instruments, as well as a thorough elaboration of the transition strategy, in order to maximize the efficient use of the limited resources.

My delegation would also like to highlight necessity of enhanced transparency on SPMs. We concur with the view of the ACABQ that expected accomplishments and related indicators of achievement can be improved in order to better reflect what can realistically be achieved by each respective mission and the activities for which each mission should be held accountable during the relevant performance period.

My delegation believes that the Member States should have the benefit of enhanced accountability from SPMs including a clear mandate, sound operations, and a clearly defined timeline of their activities. My delegation expects that enhancing the transparency of SPMs in this manner will contribute to a clearer understanding among the Member States of the Secretary-General's budget proposals on SPMs.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan carefully notes that the Secretary-General has proposed a budget allocation for 35 Special Political Missions (SPMs) of USD 566,321,700 for 2016, without taking into account the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism. When that mission is added, the total allocation will amount to USD 571,352,500. My delegation would like to reiterate that the total sum of the 2016 and 2017 SPM budgets should be contained within the provided envelope of USD 1,124 million which reflects a reduction of USD 6 million from the preliminary estimate. In this context, my delegation would like to look further at the Secretary-General's report as well as the Secretariat's response to be presented at the informal meetings, in order to seek further efficiencies in resource utilization.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation takes note of the concerns expressed by several groups and Member States with regard to the current funding and backstopping arrangements for SPMs.

However, we are not convinced of the need to establish a separate account for SPMs, and at the same time we feel that transparency and accountability need to be further enhanced. We are still concerned that the establishment of a separate account for SPMs would negatively affect the fiscal discipline of this organization, and result in an increase of the overall budget.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, I would like to reiterate that my delegation will participate actively and constructively in the discussions on this agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.