

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

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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

**Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels
(A/70/348/Add.2)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addendum 2 of the report 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-- thematic cluster II: monitoring teams, groups and panels as contained in document A/70/348/Add.2.

2. Over the last six years, the Security Council has expanded the use of sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels as part of its tool box for maintaining international peace and security. Today, 14 such panels comprise 78 experts who frequently deploy all over the world to act as the eyes and ears of the Council. Considerable time and effort is spent to ensure that the most qualified experts are recruited and are provided with high-quality administrative and advisory support. Moreover, the Department of Political Affairs, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate promote and facilitate cooperation across these diverse sanctions panels, and

ensure, where appropriate, that they work collaboratively with other special political and peacekeeping missions.

3. In order to maintain consistency in the performance of cluster II missions, the results frameworks continue to be revised and harmonized, to the extent possible. Of course, inherent differences in the sanctions regimes have been retained. We continue in our efforts to improve the way information is presented to the General Assembly.

4. The total requirements of the 14 cluster II missions for 2016 amount to \$34.5 million, a decrease of \$1.4 million (3.9%) from the previous year. This is mainly due to a reduction in the average fees of the experts and a reduction in travel requirements of experts and staff. There are no changes proposed in the composition or levels of staff. These requirements would be charged against the provision of \$1.1 billion proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political Affairs of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

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