

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



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 I: special and personal envoys, and special advisers of the Secretary-General
(A/70/348/Add.1)**

**Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices
and commissions (A/70/348/Add.3)**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (A/70/348/Add.4)

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (A/70/348/Add.6)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addenda 1, 3, 4 and 6 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budgets for 2016 in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, contained in documents A/70/348.

2. Addendum 1 of the report contains the proposed budgets for missions grouped under thematic cluster I. These budgets support the delivery of mandates of special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General, which form part of the UN's global instruments and political tools to pursue and sustain negotiated political settlements. In 2015, these SPMs continued to contribute to the overall objective of conflict prevention and maintaining international peace and security through early warning, mediation, preventive diplomacy, support to electoral processes, good offices, and peacebuilding efforts. Many of these missions carry out the role of good offices of the Secretary-General or are mandated to promote lasting political solutions in regions affected by conflicts. The office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria is leading the UN efforts to achieve a lasting political settlement for the crisis in Syria, which is having deep and broad implications in Syria, in the region and beyond. The office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region has been coordinating and assessing the full implementation of the Peace and Security Coordination Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the region by providing support to the Kampala Dialogues and follow-up processes. These are just a few examples of the mandates being delivered by some of the missions included under cluster I.

3. The proposed resources for special political missions under the thematic cluster I amount to \$31.3 million, which represents an overall increase of \$0.8 million compared to the approved resources for 2015. The increase is mainly under the office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria.

4. Let me now turn to Addendum 3 containing the proposed budgets for missions grouped under thematic cluster III, United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions. Several of these missions have been dealing with increasing demands for support and cooperation from national, regional and international actors. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) has been carrying out its mandate in a deteriorated domestic situation given also by the high refugee influx caused by the protracted crisis in neighboring Syria. United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) has been responding to increasing demand from the countries of region related to prevention of conflict and of relapse into conflict. United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) with its multidimensional mandate has been operating in a volatile environment that requires the strengthening of the mission in terms of security

capacity to be adequately equipped to support the additional presences requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2232 (2015).

5. The proposed resources for missions under the thematic cluster III amount to \$190.1 million, which represents an overall increase of \$7.1 million compared to the approved resources for 2015. The increase is mainly under UNOCA and UNSOM, partially offset by reductions under United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

6. Now I would like to turn to Addendum 4 which contains the proposed budget for UNAMA. The Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMA until 17 March 2016 in its resolution 2210 (2015), and requested a full examination of the role, structure and activities of all United Nations entities in Afghanistan. In response to this request, UNAMA initiated the review through the establishment of a tripartite working group, co-chaired by the Mission and the Government of Afghanistan and with participation of international stakeholders. This comprehensive review will likely inform discussion on the renewal of the mandate of the mission in 2016. Subject to the outcome of the Security Council mandated examination, the Mission will continue to focus on the provision of political support, the advancement of human rights, and the promotion of coherent and coordinated support by the international community to the Afghan Government.

7. The proposed resources for UNAMA amount to \$183.3 million, which represents a net decrease of \$4.1 million as compared to the approved resources for 2015. The overall decrease results mainly from the closure of a provincial office, consolidation of some functions, and decreases under military and police personnel.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

8. Addendum 6 of the report before the Committee contains the proposed budget for the office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen. This mission was established in 2012 to support the implementation of Yemen's November 2011 political transition agreement. Since March 2015, the conflict has escalated significantly, causing heavy casualties and a humanitarian catastrophe with more than 21 million out of 25 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance. The Special Envoy is working intensely with the Yemeni parties, including the Saudi-led Coalition, and with the strong support of the Security Council, to help find a way to end the conflict as soon as possible and to set the stage for a resumption of Yemen's political transition process.

9. The proposed resources for the office of the Special Envoy amount to \$6.9 million, which represents an overall increase of \$1.6 million compared to the approved resources for 2015.

10. The resource requirements of special political missions contained in the reports presently before the Committee 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. Thank you.