

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 153

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Agenda item 160 (a)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

Agenda Item 160 (b)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Agenda item 162

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas

Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

1 May 2017

Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for 2015/16, and the budget for 2017/18 for four peacekeeping missions listed in today's journal under agenda items **153-UNFICYP, 160 (a)-UNDOF and 160 (b)-UNIFIL, and 162-MINURSO.**

2. In respect of agenda item **153-UNFICYP** in Cyprus, the proposed budget for 2017/18 amounts to \$56.0 million, an increase of 2.2 per cent over the 2016/17 approved budget. UNFICYP continues to play an important role in maintaining a calm and secure environment and helping to rebuild trust between the communities and significant progress has been made in the leader-led negotiation process for a settlement.

3. With regards to item **160 (a)-UNDOF**, the observer force in the Golan, a budget of \$62.3 million is proposed for 2017/18, reflecting an increase of 30.5 per cent over the approved 2016/17 budget level. Further, the ACABQ, on 23 March 2017, approved a request to enter into commitments in the amount of \$8.8 million for the current budget period. The need for the additional commitments arose due to the ongoing return of the Force to the positions on the Bravo side, starting with Camp Faouar.

4. Turning now to agenda item **160 (b)-UNIFIL** in Lebanon, estimated resource requirements of \$494.8 million for the 2017/18 period represent an increase of 1.2 per cent compared to the approved resources for 2016/17. The situation in the south of Lebanon remains generally calm, yet it is fragile and vulnerable to developments in the region. In this context, UNIFIL's liaison and coordination role between the parties has taken on added significance.

5. In respect of agenda item **162-MINURSO** in Western Sahara, the proposed 2017/18 budget of \$55.2 million (exclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions-in-kind) represents a 5.0 per cent increase compared to the approved resources for 2016/17. In the last months, MINURSO has faced challenges to its operations due to lack of full functionality. The return of international staff members will allow MINURSO to resume some core functionality.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on these items.