

Statement by Mr. Abbas Yazdani, Counselor
Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations
On Special Political Missions Cluster II

New York, 30 November 2017

Mr. Chairman

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you, as well as the other members of the Bureau, on the assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. I would like to assure you of the full support of my delegation in your efforts to steer us to a successful end of our deliberations.

At the outset, allow me to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, Office of Program Planning, Budget and Accounts, for introducing the Secretary-General's report on Special Political Missions cluster II, contained in document A/72/371/Add.2. I also wish to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing its related report contained in document A/72/7/Add.12.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation attaches great importance to the critical role played by Special Political Missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly or the Security Council, in United Nations efforts to build sustainable peace.

We have taken note of the resources requirement proposed for the special political missions under thematic cluster II for the year 2018. In this respect, we believe that allocation of adequate resources for SPMs is a critical element for the efficient and effective discharge of their varied and complex mandates.

We are also of the view that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programs and activities to ensure their smooth and effective implementation. Meanwhile, it is necessary to follow strict financial discipline and improve utilization efficiency.

In this context, **Mr. Chairman**, I would like to express concern about the proposed resources for implementation of the Security Council resolution 2231. According to the information provided by the Secretariat in paragraph 164 of document A/72/371/Add.2 the estimated requirements for 2018 amount to \$2,034,300. That amount would provide for salaries and common staff costs for the continuation of 11 positions, official travel and other operational and logistical support requirements. Taking into account nature and scope of its legislative mandates, its staffing, material and budgetary size, it seems that there is an overflow of human and financial resources into this capacity.

According to the supplementary information provided by the Secretariat last year, the workload of aforementioned capacity is limited to few queries about the procurement channel, preparing biannual reports and holding three expert-level meetings during a year. Considering this fact, allocation of 11 positions, including one P5, five P4, two P3 and three General Services to the capacity for implementation of resolution 2231, would definitely be interpreted as waste of scarce resources of the Organization.

My delegation will seek further clarification on the operational requirements related to the work of this capacity during our deliberation on this issue. We will

be interested to learn more about the performance information of the capacity, as well as the justification for the proposed assumption.

My delegation will also be interested to get further information about the proposed application of 5 per cent of vacancy rate in 2018, compared with the 30 per cent vacancy rate for the positions approved in 2017, and seek clarification and justification for the actual need of the Secretariat for recruitment.

Furthermore, we will seek further detailed information on the necessary balance of the staffing structure by taking into account equitable geographical representation and ensuring gender balance.

With regard to the negotiation process, I'd like to stress that the negotiations must be conducted in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, rather than in small group configurations in the closed doors.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, my delegation would like to assure you of its full cooperation during deliberations on this agenda item with the objective of concluding in a timely manner.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.