

\*\*\* CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY \*\*\*



**Agenda item 136**  
**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives  
authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council  
(A/72/371/Add.4 and Add.6)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
28 November 2017

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addenda 4 and 6 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for 2018 in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council with resource proposals for United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and the Panel of Experts on Mali.

2. In its resolution 2344 (2017), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct a strategic review of UNAMA, examining mandated tasks, priorities, and related resources, assessing the Mission's efficiency and effectiveness, in order to optimize the division of labour and configuration to ensure better cooperation with other United Nations organizations, and further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the results of the review by July 2017. The resulting special report of the Secretary-General on the strategic review of UNAMA was issued on 10 August 2017. The Mission's proposed budget for 2018 was informed by the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his special report contained in document A/72/312-S/2017/696. In line with these recommendations, UNAMA will shift its focus from supporting a post-conflict peace building agenda to supporting an Afghan-owned peace process.

3. The proposed resource requirements for UNAMA for 2018 amount to \$140.4 million, which represents a net decrease of \$23.7 million as compared to the approved resources for 2017. The overall decrease results mainly from decreased requirements for military and police personnel, reflecting the disengagement of military and police advisers in the context of the strategic review; the proposed net decrease of 291 positions; and decreased requirements to cover operational costs, reflecting mainly the proposed reconfiguration of the Mission's air fleet and decreased requirements for fuel consumption and for alteration and renovation projects.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

4. Turning now to the proposed budget for 2018 for the Panel of Experts on Mali, the Committee would recall that on 5 September 2017, the Security Council, by its resolution 2374 (2017), established a sanctions regime in relation to the situation in Mali and established a Sanctions Committee and a Panel of Experts. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to create, for an initial period of 13 months, in consultation with the Committee, a panel of up to five experts and to make the necessary financial and security arrangements to support the work of the Panel.

5. The estimated requirements for 2018 would amount to \$1.3 million to provide for salaries and common staff costs for three positions (1 P-5, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) as well as for operational requirements. The initial requirements of the Panel of Experts on Mali for the period 1 October to 31 December 2017 are being funded under the authority granted to the Secretary-General under paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 70/250 relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2016-2017.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on these items.

Thank you.