

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



Agenda Item 136

Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019:

**Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019
under section 27, Humanitarian assistance, and section 36, Staff assessment**

United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic

(A/73/729)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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Madame Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/73/729 on the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 for the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic. The Monitoring Mechanism was established by Security Council resolution 2165 of 14 July 2014 to monitor the loading of humanitarian relief consignments of the United Nations and its partners in the neighbouring countries. By its resolution 2449 (2018) of 13 December 2018, the Security Council extended the mandate of the Mechanism for a period of 12 months until 10 January 2020.

It is recalled that, in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, the General Assembly approved an amount of \$3.8 million for the Mechanism only for the year 2018. Therefore, the current report of the Secretary-General presents the 2019 requirement of the Mechanism in order for it to continue its monitoring activities during the year 2019.

The requirements of the Mechanism for 2019 presented in the current report amount to \$3.0 million net (or \$3.3 million gross). Taking into account the unencumbered balance against the approved resources for the Mechanism for 2018, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2.8 million, net of staff assessment, (or \$3.1 million gross) is being sought under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.