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**Agenda item 136
Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Revised estimates relating to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization under
section 5, Peacekeeping operations**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Acting Controller
9 November 2018

Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/73/402, on the revised estimates for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) under section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019. The revised estimates relate to the gradual return and re-establishment of the United Nations presence on the Bravo side of the Golan, following improvements in the security situation. UNTSO was established by Security Council resolution 50 of 29 May 1948. In its resolution 73 (1949), the Council requested UNTSO to observe and maintain the ceasefire and assist the parties to the 1949 Armistice Agreements in the supervision and observance of the terms of those Agreements.

2. With the escalation of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2014, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) needed to withdraw temporarily from observation posts and from other positions curtailing the majority of operations in the areas of separation and limitation on the Bravo side monitored under the Disengagement of Forces Agreement.

3. Following recent security improvements on the Golan, the technical assessment on the resumption of activities on the Bravo side determined that conditions on the ground would permit the accelerated return of the observers to the areas of activity. Owing to the timeline for consideration of the UNTSO budget proposal and the uncertainty of future security conditions at the time, no resources were included in the budget proposals for UNTSO for 2018-2019 for the resumption of these activities.

4. The report of the Secretary-General presently before the Committee contains the resource requirements of UNTSO for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019, in the amount of \$2.3 million. These requirements would provide for the gradual resumption of observation activities on the Bravo side of the Golan for the biennium 2018-2019 and would cover the costs of construction of accommodation and office space in Camp Faouar, logistical support and the deployment of observers.

5. Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you, Madam Chair.