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Agenda item 136
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/73/365/Add.1 and Add.2)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Acting Controller
28 November 2018

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addendum 1 and addendum 2 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budgets for 2019 in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council under thematic cluster I and thematic cluster II as contained in documents A/73/352/Add.1 and Add.2.
2. The missions grouped under thematic cluster I support the delivery of mandates of special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General, which form part of the UN's global instruments and political tools to pursue and sustain negotiated political settlements. In 2018, these SPMs continued to contribute to the overall objective of conflict prevention and maintaining international peace and security through early warning, mediation, preventive diplomacy, good offices, and peacebuilding efforts. Many of these missions carry out the role of good offices of the Secretary-General or are mandated to promote lasting political solutions in regions affected by conflicts.
3. The proposed resources for 2019 for special political missions presented under thematic cluster I amount to \$55.9 million, which represents an overall increase of \$6.6 million (13.4%) compared to the approved resources for 2018. The overall increase in resources for 2019 is mainly under four special

political missions in this cluster, namely the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (\$4.1 million), the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi (\$1.1 million), the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region (\$0.7 million) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar (\$0.4 million). The increase in resources is primarily due to increased requirements for staff costs, as a result of lower vacancy rates in 2019 than budgeted for 2018 and higher civilian personnel costs based on actual salary levels and entitlements of incumbents.

4. Madam Chair, I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee, that by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2018/955) and the Security Council (S/2018/979) in late October/early November, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan will be renamed as the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa. This Office will subsume the functions and the proposed resources for 2019 for the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan.

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

5. Turning now to thematic cluster II, the proposed resources for 2019 for the 14 special political missions amount to \$37.9 million, which represents an overall increase of \$2.4 million (6.9%) compared to the approved resources for 2018. The overall increase in resources for 2019 is under all but one of the special political missions in this cluster, and mainly for the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate; the Panel of Experts on Mali; the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions [1526 \(2004\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; and the Office of the Ombudsperson established pursuant to resolution [1904 \(2009\)](#). The increase relates primarily to higher requirements for staff costs based on actual salary levels and entitlements of incumbents, and as a result of lower vacancy rates in 2019 than budgeted for new positions approved in 2018, higher fees for the experts, and the official travel of Close Protection Officers providing escort to the Experts as per the security risk assessment recommendations by the Department of Safety and Security Services. The increase is offset in part by resources that will not be required in 2019 for security for the Panel of Experts on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the proposed abolishment of 2 positions in the Implementation of Security Council resolution [2231 \(2015\)](#).

6. Madam Chair, I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee, that on 14 November 2018, the Security Council decided to terminate the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, effective 16 December 2018 and to establish the Panel of Experts on Somalia. Therefore, the related resource requirements for 2019 for the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, in the amount of \$2.3 million, will not be required. The resource requirements for 2019 for the remaining 13 special political missions amount to \$35.7 million. The resource requirements for 2019 for the newly established Panel of Experts on Somalia will be presented to this Committee at its first resumed session.

7. I wish to also bring to your attention that the resources presented for Cluster II SPMs do not include the resource requirements for 2019 for the United Nations Investigative Team for Accountability of Da'esh (ISIL) – UNITAD which will be presented in A/73/352/Add.6 at a later date.

8. Taking into account the estimated combined over-expenditures of \$3.4 million for 2018 for the 25 missions in clusters I and II, which is due to projected over expenditures under civilian personnel costs mainly under the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, due to lower actual average vacancy rates, and excluding the requirements for UNITAD and the resources originally proposed for 2019 for the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, it is requested that the General Assembly approve net additional requirements for these missions in the amount of \$95 million.

Madam Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

I look forward to the discussions on these items.

Thank you.

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

**Revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall
policymaking, direction and coordination
(A/73/424)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Acting Controller**

28 November 2018

Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the adoption of resolution 72/729 by the General Assembly on 31 May 2018.
2. The report requests the General Assembly to appropriate the amount of \$13,571,800 in the form of a grant under Section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 2018-19, in accordance with paragraph 10 (b) of resolution 72/729.
3. In its resolution 72/729, the General Assembly decided that the reinvigorated resident coordinator system would be funded, on an annual basis, starting in 2019, through a combination of three funding sources: a 1% levy on tightly earmarked third-party contributions, voluntary, predictable, multi-year contributions to a dedicated trust fund, and the UN Sustainable Development Group's cost-sharing arrangement.
4. For 2019, the reinvigorated system, able to meet the ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, will require an investment of \$281 million. This is below the initial

estimate of \$290 million shared with Member States during the intergovernmental negotiations leading up to General Assembly resolution 72/279 and reflects a significant effort to identify the most effective and efficient working arrangements for the new RC system.

5. In paragraph 10 (b) of its resolution 72/729, the General Assembly decided to double the amount contributed towards the RC system through the UN Sustainable Development Group's cost-sharing arrangement. This cost-sharing will amount to \$77.5 million for the 2019 costs of the RC system and the United Nations Secretariat's share amounts to \$13,571,800, based on the current cost-sharing formula.

6. The governing bodies for several UN agencies, funds and programmes have recently approved their respective contributions. Some have already disbursed their contributions. This has facilitated our efforts to proceed with initial preparations for the new system, including ensuring continuity in the support that it provides to governments in 165 countries and territories.

7. With the General Assembly's decision to integrate the RC system into the Secretariat, providing greater oversight, transparency and accountability towards the Member States, an appropriation from the regular budget to the RC system's budget increases its significance and impact. The viability and credibility of the reform largely depends on it.

8. The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General are committed to providing member states with the highest degree of transparency on the RC system: what it does, how it is structured, the results it achieves, how it is funded, and how the funding will be utilized. These details are provided in Annex II of the subject report.

9. It is the first time that we have developed, and shared, detailed information of resource allocation at the global, regional and country level. We have designed a results framework and reporting systems that reflect both a new level of expectations from the RC system and a significantly higher degree of accountability for results achieved.

10. Moving forward, the ECOSOC will play a critical role in ensuring greater transparency and oversight by Member States of the Resident Coordinator system. This role is in line with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 72/279, which requests the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to "present a comprehensive report on an annual basis, including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of the UN Development

Operations Coordination Office, to the ECOSOC Segment on Operational Activities for Development". This provision allows the ECOSOC to provide a unified intergovernmental oversight mechanism for the Resident Coordinator system, including transparency and accountability on its full budget.

Madam Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

11. Member States have decided to create a fully dedicated, reinvigorated and independent coordination function to place sustainable development at the heart of the United Nations' efforts. The General Assembly has also agreed to the funding modalities to sustain the new system. The end goal of this reform effort is a UN development system that works better together, with greater impact, to help governments accelerate efforts and deepen national capacities to attain the sustainable development goals.

12. In support of this decision of Member States, the report before you requests the General Assembly to approve an additional appropriation of \$13,571,800 representing a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2018–2019.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

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Agenda Item 136

Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019:

**Report on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the
Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (A/73/379)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

**Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Acting Controller
28 November 2018**

Madame Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to introduce the report of the Secretary-General under this agenda item contained in A/73/379, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/262A, by which the Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount of \$2.3 million for 2018 to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL).

The present report addresses the use of the commitment authority, and the modalities for the future support of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals to the Residual Special Court, and includes a request for a subvention for the Court to continue to carry out its mandate in 2019.

Despite the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Government of Sierra Leone, and key donors of the Court, including the Member States of the Oversight Committee, and the intense

fundraising efforts made by the Principals of the Court, there are no adequate voluntary resources and, at this stage, there are no prospects for additional voluntary contributions.

Given the lack of adequate and sustained voluntary contributions for the Court to fulfil its mandate, the Secretary-General requests the General Assembly to approve a subvention in the amount of \$2,984,600 to fund the activities of the Residual Special Court in 2019.

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