

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 155
Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
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Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for 2017/18 and the budget for 2019/20 for agenda item **155-MONUSCO** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
2. The proposed 2019/20 budget for MONUSCO amounts to \$1.0 billion, which represents a decrease of 8.2 per cent compared to the 2018/19 approved budget. The budget proposal reflects a reduction in the footprint of the Mission as it will concentrate its efforts on areas affected by armed group violence, notably the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Kasai provinces. Seven field offices and one site in Kamina will be closed by 30 June 2019. The adjustment to the Mission's footprint and the closure of the offices will result in a net reduction in staffing of 752 posts and positions. MONUSCO will have two priorities during the 2019/20 period. First, the Mission will engage with the President and the newly-established government along with national institutions and key international partners, to advocate for progress on governance and security reforms, and to support efforts to address root causes of conflict. In addition, the Mission will focus on the protection of civilian in particular by reducing the threat of armed groups, and by working with the Government to sustainably address those armed groups who have expressed their willingness to lay down weapons.
3. Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.