

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



Agenda item 135
Proposed programme budget for 2020

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives
authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council
(A/74/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.4 and Add.6)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

18 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2020 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 III and UNAMI, as contained in documents A/74/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.4 and Add.6.

2. The resources proposed for 2020 for the nine special political missions presented under thematic cluster III amount to \$291.2 million, which represents an overall decrease of \$5.6 million (or 1.9 per cent) compared with the approved budget for 2019. The overall decrease is mainly under three special political missions in this cluster, namely UNSMIL (\$3.9 million), owing to the proposed relocation of staff to Tripoli; UNVMC (\$3.9 million), owing to the projected closure of four remote field locations; and UNIOGBIS (\$0.9 million), owing to the reconfiguration of the Office. These reductions are partly offset by increased requirements for UNSOM (\$3.2 million), as a result of the deployment of additional United Nations Guard Unit personnel and the proposed establishment of positions for the planned electoral support.

3. Mr. Chairman, I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee, that the resource requirements for UNMHA and BINUH will be presented separately (at a later date).

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

4. Turning now to UNAMI, in Iraq, the resources proposed for 2020 amount to \$100.5 million, reflecting a decrease of \$5.3 million (or 5.0 per cent), compared with the approved budget for 2019. The decrease reflects mostly the completion in 2019 of most of the acquisition of safety and security equipment, as well as the acquisition of communications and information technology equipment; cost recoveries from the United Nations country team for maintenance services, security services and utilities and waste disposal services; and lower requirements for transponder charges and Internet services based on current contractual arrangements.

5. Mr. Chairman, I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee, that given the liquidity crisis facing the regular budget operations of the UN, special political missions under thematic cluster III as well as UNAMI have been requested, like all other regular budget operations, to align expenditures with liquidity forecasts. To avert a bigger crisis, managers have been instructed to adjust their hiring and non-post expenditures.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I look forward to the discussions on these items.

Thank you.