

*** 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.2, Add.3 and Add.5)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

15 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 clusters I and II, as well as UNAMA, as contained in documents A/74/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2, Add.3 and Add.5.
2. The various Special Envoys and Advisers appointed by the Secretary-General, presented under thematic cluster I, continue to offer good offices and to facilitate often difficult negotiations with a view to brokering peace agreements. The resources proposed for 2020 for special political missions grouped under this cluster amount to \$57.1 million, which represents an overall increase of \$2.1 million (or 3.8 per cent) compared with the approved budget for 2019. The overall increase is mainly under three special political missions in this cluster, namely the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (\$1.4 million), the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (\$0.3 million) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Burundi (\$0.2 million). The increase in resources is primarily due to higher costs for security requirements in Yemen and to higher estimated common staff costs, based on recent expenditure patterns.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

3. The various sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, presented under thematic cluster II, continue to provide substantive support to the Security Council in the implementation of its respective sanctions regimes. The resources proposed for 2020 amount to \$57.5 million, representing an overall increase of \$0.8 million (or 1.4 per cent) compared with the approved budget for 2019. The overall increase principally reflects increased requirements for four special political missions in this cluster, namely, the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (\$0.8 million); the Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) (\$0.4 million); the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (\$0.1 million); and the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (\$0.1 million). The increase relates primarily to the application of lower vacancy rates in 2020 and the proposed net increase of 14 positions. The increase is offset in part by reduced requirements for 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.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

4. I turn now to UNAMA, in Afghanistan, which continues (under difficult security conditions) to lend support and offer its good offices to peacemaking efforts undertaken at both the national and subnational level. The proposed resources for 2020 for UNAMA amount to \$136.2 million, reflecting a decrease of \$4.5 million (or 3.2 per cent) compared with the approved budget for 2019. The decrease reflects the proposed net reduction of seven positions, the proposed cost sharing with agencies, funds, and programmes of seven Security Officer positions, as well as reduced requirements for operational costs.

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 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.