



**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.1)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

29 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Chapeau of 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, as contained in document A/74/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1.
2. The overall resource requirements of special political missions continue to be included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/266 A, and the endorsement of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the earlier submission of proposals, as well as the alignment of budget proposals for the special political missions with the rest of the regular budget, the overall requirements are now derived from the estimated resource needs of individual missions on an annual basis, which are set out in addenda 1 to 6 to section 3.
3. The total proposed resources for 2020 amount to \$643.9 million for 37 special political missions, representing an overall decrease of \$11.7 million compared with the approved budget for 2019 (\$655.6 million). The overall requirements include the amount of \$1.4 million to provide for the share of special

political missions for the financing of the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, in line with General Assembly resolution 73/309.

4. The decrease in resource requirements in 2020 relates primarily to: (a) UNAMI, in the amount of \$5.3 million (5.0 per cent) reflecting reduced operational costs; (b) UNAMA, in the amount of \$4.5 million (3.2 per cent), mainly due to the proposed net reduction of seven positions and reduced operational costs; (c) UNSMIL, in the amount of \$3.9 million (5.1 per cent), due to the planned consolidation of its presence in Libya, taking into account security conditions; and (d) the UN Verification Mission in Columbia, in the amount of \$3.9 million (5.9 per cent), due to the projected closure of 4 remote field locations.

5. The overall decrease is offset by a proposed increase in resource requirements in the amount of \$7.1 million resulting mainly from resolutions of intergovernmental bodies for UNSOM, UNITAD and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen.

6. Resource requirements for 2020 in respect of UNMHA and BINUH, will be presented separately (at a later date).

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

7. 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 by adjusting their hiring and non-post expenditures.

I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.