

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 166 (a)

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

Agenda item 168

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by
Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

6 May 2021

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of two peacekeeping missions under agenda items **166 (a)-UNDOF and 168-MINURSO**.
2. In respect of agenda item **166 (a)**, UNDOF, the proposed budget of **\$61.8 million** for the 2021/22 financial period, represents a decrease of **2.7 per cent** compared with the 2020/21 approved budget. The proposed budget reflects the fact that the Force completed the return to its full operational capabilities on the Bravo side. For the 2021/22 period, UNDOF will focus on the maintenance of its operations and its mandated observation and patrolling activities, conditions permitting.
3. In respect of agenda item **168**, MINURSO, the proposed 2021/22 budget of **\$57.2 million** represents a decrease of **0.6 per cent** compared to the approved resources for 2020/21. The budget proposal reflects a decrease in operational requirements primarily due to lower fuel costs and lower requirements for air operations, offset in part by an increase in ground transportation, and an increase in requirements for civilian staff due mainly to an increase in the average salary costs applied in the 2021/22 period. MINURSO will continue its observation and activities to promote

cessation of hostilities; provide continued support to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General in the performance of his or her functions, including during visits to the region; facilitate the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in implementing the programme of confidence-building measures once the programme resumes, and provide logistical support to the observer delegation of the African Union in Laayoune once they return.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on these items.