



MÉXICO

Intervention of the Delegation of Mexico

Item 134. Review of Arrangements for funding and backstopping Special Political Missions

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the valuable comments made by Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Also, I would like to thank Ms. Gina Casar, General Controller, and Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chairman of the ACABQ for the introduction of the respective reports.

The Reports that we have in front of us are the result of a request made to the Secretary General included in Resolution 65/259, to conduct a thorough review of the current funding and backstopping arrangements for the special political missions with a view to identifying possible alternatives. Such a request was sponsored by my delegation, among many others, with the view to address an urgent and growing challenge.

The challenges the SPM's faces are related, in particular, to its rapid growth during the last decade. I would like to recall that in the context of the biennium 2000-2001, the requirements for the SPM's amounted 86 million dollars, while in the last biennium, those requirements amounted 1.2 billion. We believe that this increase is unparalleled in any other Chapter of the Budget, and indeed, by large the main factor behind the overall increase of the Regular Budget of the Organization.

That is the central reason for which my delegation believes that addressing the challenges in front of us is of outmost importance and cannot be postponed.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes that one of the central problems correctly identified by the Report of the Secretary General as well as by the ACABQ is that the UN has two separated misaligned funding systems. While the SPMs Budget is included in the Regular Budget, their characteristics (related to peace and security in a volatile environment) would undoubtedly be better served by aligning them with the Peace Keeping Operations Budget Cycle.

Creating a specific account for SPM's, aligned with the PKO's budgeting cycle, would be the most practical option for addressing this issue, and at the same, would increase the transparency of the funding and financial arrangements of SPMs.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation supports that the recommendations of the ACABQ in the sense of providing the SPM's with access to operative arrangements such as the Support Account, the Global Field Support Strategy, the Peacekeeping Fund and the strategic deployment stocks would improve their efficiency and security.

In that regard, my delegation concurs with the overall threshold of the Report of the ACABQ, and of most of its very fortunate recommendations.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, my delegation believes that the analysis and recommendations included in the Secretary General's and the ACABQ's Report point in a very clear direction.

As I mentioned before, the SPM's are quintessential activities related to the Peace and Security activities of the Organization.

Out of 31 Special Political Missions, only one has been the result of a mandate of the General Assembly, while the rest were established by the Security Council.

The oversight of the General Assembly over SPM's is limited to financial issues, given that there is no space where the GA can discuss all aspects of the SPMs, in the way the C34 does with the Peacekeeping Operations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is convinced that all of these elements demonstrate that the funding arrangements, particularly the scale of assessment (currently the Regular Budget) do not take into consideration neither the role and nature of the SPMs, nor are those arrangements consistent with the widely recognized special responsibilities of the Permanent Members of the Security Council in the maintenance of peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

We have only days now before the end of the session, and my delegation believes that this issue is related to more than 20% of the amount requested in the Secretary General's Budget submission. Therefore, we believe that the challenges that I outlined need to be addressed as a matter of urgency and priority.

Finally, allow me to provide the assurances that my delegation is ready to engage in the most constructive manner in addressing this very important matter, and we encourage all to engage with the same spirit.

Thank you,

(Check against delivery)