



Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Revised estimates relating to the report of the Secretary General on the future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations

(A/70/745)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Mr. Pedro Guazo, Officer-in-Charge,
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts
11 May 2016

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the report of the Secretary General on the future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations.
2. Let me take a few moments to outline the chronology of steps that formed the basis for the present report. In October 2014, the Secretary-General convened a High-level Panel to thoroughly review United Nations peace operations today, and the emerging needs for the future. The Panel's report (A/70/95 - S/2015/446) was presented in June 2015 to the Presidents of the General Assembly and Security Council, and in September 2015 the Secretary-General provided his response and proposed agenda to address the recommendations of the Panel (A/70/357 - S/2015/682). The Secretary-General endorsed the Panel's call for a significant strengthening of and more reliable resourcing through the regular budget for the Secretariat's core prevention and mediation capacities. In November 2015, by Resolution 70/6, the General Assembly decided to give further consideration during the current 70th session to the recommendations emanating from the initiative of the Secretary-

General, including in the Fifth Committee. In paragraph 54 of its resolution 70/247, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to consider including proposals to strengthen capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in future budget submissions.

3. The report before you was subsequently prepared and submitted in February 2016, following the General-Assembly's consideration of the Secretary-General's substantive proposals in response to the Panel's report. It takes into account the Assembly's decisions in November and December last year. While the proposed requirements are urgent, the magnitude of the resources called for careful consideration and the development of detailed justifications.

4. In the present report, the Secretary-General is requesting total additional resources in the amount of \$11.6 million (net of staff assessment); \$8.9 million for the Department of Political Affairs, and \$2.7 million for the Office of Central Support Services, for general operating expenses. These requirements would provide for a total of 41 posts for the Department of Political Affairs, including 32 new posts and the conversion of 9 posts previously funded from extra-budgetary resources.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates

5. This proposal is guided by an overarching objective of making the Department of Political Affairs more operational and geared toward rapid response in the area of conflict prevention and mediation. This would enable it to support Member States and regional and sub regional organizations more effectively in their conflict-prevention and mediation engagement.

6. My colleagues and I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.