

\*\*\* CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY \*\*\*



**Agenda item 134**  
**Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives  
authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council  
(A/71/365/Add.4 and Add.5)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
7 December 2016

Madam Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addenda 1 and 2 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budgets for 2017 in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council for the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), as contained in documents A/71/365/Add.4 and Add.5.

2. Addendum 4 contains the proposed budget for UNAMA. The Mission's strategic priorities are based on Security Council resolution 2274 (2016), by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Mission until 17 March 2017. The Secretary-General indicates that Afghanistan continues to face significant political, security, and economic challenges, which are expected to last into 2017.

3. The proposed resource requirements for UNAMA for 2017 amount to \$170 million, which represents a net decrease of \$13 million as compared to the approved resources for 2016. The overall decrease results mainly from the proposed net reduction of 57 civilian positions and decreased requirements for operational costs.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

4. Now let me now turn to the 2017 budget proposal for UNAMI contained in the addendum 5 of the document A/71/365. Last July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2299, which extended UNAMI's mandate for another year with the decision that the Special Representative for Iraq and UNAMI shall continue to pursue their mandate as stipulated in resolution 2233, emphasizing the importance of efforts to support the country's stabilization, particularly those areas liberated from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh). In addition, the Council also stressed the importance of advancing political dialogue and national reconciliation. In response to resolution 2299, the Mission has continued its engagement with government officials, parliamentarians, political parties, civil society and religious and community leaders to find sustainable solutions with regard to the post-ISIL period and promote inclusive political dialogue as well as national reconciliation.

5. The requirements for UNAMI for 2017 amount to \$117 million, a decrease of \$2 million from the previous year. The staffing requirements amount to 858 civilian staff positions, a reduction of 15 positions.

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on these items.

Thank you.