



**Agenda item 136**  
**Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives  
authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council  
(A/72/371)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Mr. Johannes Huisman  
Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division,  
15 December 2017

Mister Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the Chapeau report of the Secretary-General in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, contained in document A/72/371.
2. The budget proposals for 35 special political missions, amount to a total of \$641.1 million, and include the share of special political missions in the budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/293. Subsequent to the preparation of this report, the mandate of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism was not renewed, and therefore the requirements of the remaining 34 special political missions contained in the report would amount to \$636.3 million.
3. The proposed number of civilian positions for 2018 for the 34 missions totals 3,838, reflecting an overall increase of 109 positions, mainly as a result of the establishment of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, which is partly offset by the net decreases in proposed staffing under UNAMA.

4. As in the past, the budget proposals for special political missions for 2018 are organized in three thematic clusters, while the budgets for larger missions, UNAMA and UNAMI, are presented in separate addenda. Cluster I includes the budgets of special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General; cluster II includes the budgets of sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms, and cluster III includes the budgets of regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions. For 2018, the budget proposals for the Panel of Experts on Mali, the United Nation Verification Mission in Colombia, and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya are presented in separate addenda.

5. In response to comments from the ACABQ, we continue to make efforts to improve the format and presentation of budgets for special political missions. This time the Chapeau for 2018 includes information on official travel resources, backstopping positions funded from special political mission budgets, comparison of vacancy rates of special political mission, and positions vacant for over two years. Such efforts will continue.

6. It is proposed that the General Assembly

(a) approve the budgets in the total amount of \$636.3 million for the 34 special political missions for 2018, including the share of special political missions in the budget of the RSCE;

and

(b) approve a charge of \$636.3 million against the provision for special political missions proposed under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019;

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.