

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



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/Add.3 and A/72/371/Add.7)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller
13 December 2017

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addendum 3 and addendum 7 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budgets for 2018 in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council under thematic cluster III (A/72/371/Add.3) and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, (A/72/371/Add.7). The report for thematic cluster III contains the proposed budgets for seven of the nine special political missions (SPMs). The proposed resources for the other two missions, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, are presented in separate addenda.

2. The missions grouped under thematic cluster III support the delivery of mandates of regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions. In 2017, these Special Political Missions continued to contribute to the overall objective of conflict prevention and maintaining international peace and security through early warning, mediation, preventive diplomacy, support to electoral processes, good offices, and peacebuilding efforts.

3. The resources for 2018 for special political missions presented in this report amount to \$151.4 million, which represents an overall increase of \$3.6 million compared to the approved resources for 2017. The overall increase is mainly due a lower vacancy rate and higher steps in grade for civilian personnel, military and police, primarily under the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). The increases are partly offset by lower operational costs, mainly under medical services and ground transportation.

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

4. Now I would like to turn to the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia's (UNVMC). The strategic priorities for this mission are based on Security Council resolution 2366 (2017), by which the Council decided to establish the mandate of the Mission for an initial period of 12 months, and on Security Council resolution 2377 (2017) by which the Council decided to approve the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report S/2017/745 regarding the size, operational aspects, and mandate. The UN Verification Mission in Colombia is mandated to verify the implementation of two key aspects of the 2016 Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (FARC-EP). This includes the verification of the reintegration of FARC-EP members into political, economic and social life; and of the implementation of personal and collective security and protection measures, and comprehensive security and protection programmes for the communities and organizations in the territories.

5. The proposed resource requirements for UNVMC for 2018 amount to \$73.6 million. The total staffing complement for the Verification Mission for 2018 reflects the establishment of 393 civilian positions.

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

Thank you.