



**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/71/365/Add.1 and Add.5)**

**Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions  
adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2017 session  
(A/72/398)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
22 November 2017

Mr. Chair,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce addendum 1 and addendum 5 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 I and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), as contained in documents A/72/371/Add.1 and Add.5.

2. The missions grouped under thematic cluster I support the delivery of mandates of special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General, which form part of the UN's global instruments and political tools to pursue and sustain negotiated political settlements. In 2017, these SPMs continued to contribute to the overall objective of conflict prevention and maintaining international peace and security through early warning, mediation, preventive diplomacy, good offices, and peacebuilding efforts. Many of these missions carry out the role of good offices of the Secretary-General or are mandated to promote lasting political solutions in regions affected by conflicts.

3. The proposed resources for 2018 for special political missions presented under thematic cluster I amount to \$50 million, which represents an overall decrease of \$1.1 million compared to the approved resources for 2017. Six of the 10 SPMs under cluster I reflect reduced resources for 2018, while four SPMs reflect increases. The overall decrease in resources for 2018 is due to reductions under operational costs, mainly under the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General (Burundi) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region.

4. Turning now to UNAMI, the Mission's strategic priorities are based on Security Council resolution 2367 (2017), by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Mission until 31 July 2018. Iraq continues to face significant political, humanitarian, human rights, and security challenges. The security environment is expected to remain volatile, as terrorists and extremist groups, including ISIL and Al-Qaeda, try to exploit and deepen sectarian, tribal or ethnic divides. The elections initially scheduled for 2017 will be postponed and carried over into 2018, while elections to the council of Representatives are due in the spring.

5. The proposed resource requirements for UNAMI for 2018 amount to \$111 million, which represents a net decrease of \$6.5 million as compared to the approved resources for 2017. The overall decrease results mainly from the proposed net reduction of 15 civilian positions and decreased requirements for operational costs.

6. The changes in UNAMIs proposed 2018 budget include the establishment of a Women Protection Unit under the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the establishment of an office in Mosul, related to the liberation of Mosul from ISIS and the need for close monitoring of political and security situation in Ninewa Governate.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

7. I would now like to introduce the Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2017 session, contained in document A/72/398.

8. During its 2017 session, the Economic and Social Council adopted one resolution and two decisions with resource implications, as detailed in the report before you. Of these, only decision

2017/241 would give rise to additional budgetary requirements, amounting to \$247.2 thousand under section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, and would enable enhanced technical and substantive support to the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to be held in 2019. As these resources are additional to those already proposed for the biennium 2018-2019, they would require an additional appropriation and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

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

Thank you.