

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Agenda item 136

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Introduction and general discussion

**Remarks by Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller**

UN Secretariat contribution to the resident coordinator system (A/72/337)

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to present the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed contribution of the United Nations Secretariat to the resident coordinator system, A/72/337.
2. This report responds to paragraph 3 of part V of General Assembly resolution 71/272 B in which the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/70/7/Add.48), and requested the Secretary-General to present to the Assembly a refined proposal on the cost-sharing arrangement of the resident coordinator system, and to submit associated costs of the United Nations Secretariat's participation for 2018–2019.
3. In response to this resolution, the amount of \$13,321,574 was proposed for the United Nations Secretariat's contribution to the resident coordinator system in the proposed programme budget for section 9: Economic and social affairs (A/72/6 (Sect. 9)) for 2018-2019. This amount was provisional and based on the amount communicated for the previous biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/703), since the analysis to support the refined proposal on the cost-sharing arrangement of the resident coordinator system was not yet completed.
4. At the same time, in the context of resolution A/RES/74/273 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive proposal to further improve the resident coordinator system; the Deputy Secretary General is leading an on-going review, and the findings will be presented to the General Assembly in December 2017. That review may have profound implications on the resident coordinator system, and as such, a refined proposal on the cost-sharing arrangement remains under development; the report A/72/337 before you elaborates on these circumstances.
5. In order to ensure the continuity of the resident coordinator system, the Secretary General is requesting an appropriation of \$13,571,800 under Section 9: Economic and social affairs for the 2018-2019 biennium; this amount reflects an increase of \$250,226 over the provisional amount contained in the proposed programmed budget of Section 9.

6. The Secretariat believes the United Nations' contribution to the resident coordinator system is vital to ensure sustainability and continuity of the development pillar.

**Proposed programme budget for 2018-2019 for Section 13, International Trade Centre
(A/72/6 (Sect. 13) and Corr.1)**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

1. I also have the honour to present the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2018-2019 for Section 13, the International Trade Centre.

2. The International Trade Centre is the joint development agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. The Centre is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development, of programme 10, Trade and development, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019. The United Nations and the World Trade Organization equally share the funding of ITC's regular budget.

3. The Centre focuses on supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and economies in transition to trade, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa, least developed countries, small economies, land locked developing countries and post-conflict and fragile countries; more than 85% of ITC interventions are in these countries. Taking the 2030 Agenda as its compass, ITC focuses on supporting sustainable and inclusive growth through trade, with a particular emphasis on women's economic employment and job creation for the youth and the poor.

4. The overall level of resources proposed for the biennium 2018-2019 for ITC amounts to 72,972,700 Swiss Francs, after recosting. Based on the 50 per cent share of the United Nations, the proposed resources for the biennium 2018-2019 for ITC amount to 36,486,350 Swiss Francs which, after recosting, is equivalent to 38,006,600 United States dollars and incorporates a reduction of 406,500 United States dollars when compared to the appropriation for 2016-2017. This reduction is in-line with General Assembly resolution 71/274 and reflects the Centre's anticipated efficiencies for the biennium 2018-2019.

5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.