



Agenda item 160 (a)
Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

Agenda Item 160 (b)
Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

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

14 May 2018

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the budget performance for 2016/17 and the budget for 2018/19 for two peacekeeping missions under agenda items **160 (a)-UNDOF** and **160 (b)-UNIFIL**, as listed in today's journal.

2. With regards to agenda item **160 (a)-UNDOF**, the observer force in the Golan, a budget of \$61.8 million is proposed for 2018/19, reflecting an increase of 7.3 per cent compared to the approved 2017/18 budget. The increase mainly relates to the higher deployment of troops and armoured personnel carriers as part of the phased return of the Force to the Bravo side. In 2018/19, the Force will increase the deployment of military personnel to the Bravo side and prepare for the reoccupation of select vacated observation posts and positions, conditions permitting. These positions would be required to provide logistical support and facilitate access to medical evacuation routes. Additional resources have been proposed for the establishment of one Environmental Officer to ensure an environmentally-friendly operation with regards to energy, water and waste management; and two Engineers to assist with the maintenance and refurbishment of the facilities on the Bravo side.

3. In respect of agenda **item 160 (b)-UNIFIL** in Lebanon, the proposed 2018/19 budget for UNIFIL amounts to \$482.8 million and represents a decrease of \$160,400 over the 2017/18 approved budget. The budget proposal reflects the recommendations of the Strategic Review of UNIFIL, which was conducted in 2017 in accordance with Security Council resolution 2305 (2016). Its findings and recommendations, including the reconfiguration of the Maritime Task Force, were presented in the letter of the Secretary-General of 8 March 2017 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/202). The activities of the Force will continue to focus on restoring international peace and security in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL will also continue to maintain liaison and coordination activities, in particular through the tripartite mechanism, to advance the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). In addition, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2373 (2017), UNIFIL will enhance the visibility of its presence within its existing mandate and capability, and enhance the reporting on operational matters.

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