

Statement by the Delegation of Brazil
Fifth Committee. Main Session. 75th Session Of The General Assembly.
Item No. 141: Proposed programme budget for 2021- Estimates in
Respect of Special Political Missions

New York, 13 November 2020

Mr. Chairman,

First let me thank Ms. Vivian van de Perre, Acting Director, Field Operations Finance Division, OPPFB, for the introduction of reports of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions. I also thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, for the related reports.

Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by Chile on behalf of a group of countries on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Special Political Missions have been playing an increasingly critical role in the promotion of international peace and security over the past decades. They are widely regarded as an efficient and versatile tool at the disposal of the United Nations to attain its objectives in that area, as directed by the Charter. They serve two important goals, oftentimes concurrently: not only do they allow for the exercise of preventive diplomacy but also constitute powerful instruments of post-conflict peacebuilding. Many of them have characteristics that are not unlike multidimensional peacekeeping operations, fulfilling mandates that could be appropriately described as a sort of "light peacekeeping".

The relative importance of the Special Political Missions in the peace and security pillar is of a growing nature. Since 2015, only one Peacekeeping Operation has been established by the Security Council, namely MINUJUSTH, in Haiti, and it has now been abolished for over a year. By contrast, in this same 5-year period, the Council has created nine new Special Political Missions, in Clusters I and III alone. Of these nine new Missions, two have been especially mandated to replace former peacekeeping operations. Another evidence of this growing trend is the relative weight of these Missions in the Regular Budget of the Organization. In just 20 years, their share of the Regular Budget escalated from about 4% to approximately 24%, which is the amount they represent in the budget currently requested by the Secretary-General for 2021 - a

sixfold soar. The consequences of this shift in resources away from financing for the SDGs of those Members that do not have SPMs must be considered in detail. According to the ACABQ reports, the overall resource requirements for the 40 special political missions for 2021, if approved at the proposed level, would represent an increase of almost US\$ 30 million, or 4.1%, against the appropriation for 2020.

Special Political Missions have been operating under a hybrid system that ought to be addressed and better understood: they are typically mandated by the Security Council, as if they were Peacekeeping Operations, yet funded from the Regular Budget, as if the entire membership had taken part in the decision that created each one of them. This distortion exacerbates the imbalance between decision-making by just a few, at the Security Council, and the funding of those decisions by the whole membership, unfairly diluting the cost through regular budget financing. This obvious inconsistency should serve as an argument for the wider membership to try to view the Missions in a deeper and more holistic manner. There is a need for more clarity in the conceptual distinctions between SPMs and PKOs, as called for in paragraph 2, Section III of Resolution 72/262C. In any case, the General Assembly should engage more actively in the discussions concerning the Special Political Missions in order to provide the necessary guidance to the Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Brazil would like to stress that, in analyzing this important agenda item, Member States should bear in mind the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee as the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters of the Organization. Whereas the primary responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security is an indisputable tenet of the Charter of the United Nations, which Brazil firmly stands by, the Fifth Committee should be alert to repel any encroachment on its specific mandate and authority.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.