

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***



Agenda item 141
Proposed programme budget for 2021

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives
authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council**
(A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1 to Add.6)

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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13 November 2020

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the reports of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget for 2021 in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, as contained in documents A/75/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.1 to Add.6.

2. The overall resource requirements of special political missions continue to be included under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget. Following the adoption of resolution 72/266 A and the endorsement of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the earlier submission of proposals and the alignment of budget proposals for the special political missions with the rest of the regular budget, the overall requirements are now derived from the estimated resource needs of individual missions on an annual basis, which are set out in addenda 1 to 6 to section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2021.

3. The total proposed resources for 2021 amount to \$706.8 million (net of staff assessment) for 39 continuing special political missions, representing an overall decrease of \$5.0 million (net of staff assessment) compared with the approved budget for 2020 (\$711.8 million).

4. The decrease of \$5.0 million for 2021 reflects principally the net effect of: (a) a reduction of \$14.3 million under UNIOGBIS due to the closure of the mission on 31 December 2020 and the mandated completion of liquidation activities on 28 February 2021; (b) a reduction of \$3.2 million under UNMHA and BINUH due to lower requirements for acquisition and construction; (c) an increase of \$2.0 million in relation to the expanded mandates emanating from resolutions and decisions of the Security Council for three missions, namely, CTED, UNOWAS and UNOCA; (d) an increase of \$4.7 million under UNITAD due to the application of vacancy rates based on the latest actual vacancies; (e) an increase of \$3.1 million under UNAMA due mainly to the application of a higher percentage of common staff costs to salary costs for national staff based on actual expenditure; and (f) an increase of \$2.7 million under UNVMC due mainly to the application of the updated United Nation Volunteer standard costs and additional costs for its sub-regional sites, etc.

5. With respect to the United Nations Integrated Transition Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), established as per Security Council resolution 2524 of 3 June 2020, the proposed budget for 2021 was recently submitted as a separate addendum 7 to section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2021. That report is currently under review by the Advisory Committee, and will be introduced in due course.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

6. I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee that, given the liquidity crisis facing the regular budget operations of the UN, special political missions, like all other regular budget operations, have had to carefully manage expenditures to align with liquidity forecasts, with measures taken which include the temporary suspension of hiring and restriction of all non-post expenditures to the most urgent non-discretionary requirements.

7. I would also like to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that all budgets have been prepared with full mandate implementation in mind, and as such any impact of COVID is not foreseen nor included.

I look forward to the discussions on this item.

Thank you.