



Agenda item 138
Proposed programme budget for 2022

Special political missions
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

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Controller, Assistant-Secretary-General

16 November 2021 (AM)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the proposed programme budget for 2022 pertaining to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (A/76/6 (Sect.3)/Add.5).

The overall resources included in this proposal amount to \$135.1 million, reflecting a decrease of \$1.7 million (1.3 per cent) compared with the approved budget for 2021.

The overall decrease reflects lower civilian personnel costs of \$0.6 million (0.7 per cent) attributable to the net effect of: (i) decreased international staff costs due to the application of a higher vacancy rate of 8 per cent, compared with 6 per cent applied to the approved budget for 2021, and the application of a lower percentage of common staff costs, based on 2020 expenditure patterns, of 80 per cent for 2022, compared to 83 per cent applied to the approved 2021 budget; (ii) higher national staff costs mainly due to the application of a higher percentage of common staff costs, based on 2020 expenditure patterns, of 41 per cent for 2022, compared to 37 per cent applied to the approved 2021 budget; and the proposed establishment of 4 national staff positions; and (iii) increased costs for United Nations Volunteers due to the proposed establishment, abolishment and conversion resulting in a net increase of 32 United Nations Volunteer positions.

In addition, the proposed budget reflects a reduction of \$1.1 million (2.8 per cent) in operational costs consisting mainly of: (i) reduced requirement for private security services due to the proposed nationalization of two field offices; (ii) reduced consumption and cost per litre for petrol, oil, and lubricants; and (iii) a reduced number of flights, reduced aircraft fuel price and lower annual operating costs.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

The proposed budget for UNAMA was submitted on 21 May. Subsequent to that, with the political and security developments in Afghanistan, and based upon security advice and approval from the Department of Safety and Security (DSS), from June 2021 onward, the mission started relocating designated UN personnel and eligible family members from field offices to Kabul. Effective 15 August 2021, DSS authorized, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the temporary evacuation of designated UN international personnel to Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In early September 2021, following a review of the prevailing security environment and based on the outcome of the revised Security Risk Management process, DSS authorized the return of designated national personnel and their eligible dependents to five field locations, for conducting programme criticality 1 and 2 activities.

At present, mission personnel, both based in Kabul and from the temporary office in Almaty, continue to support and deliver the mission's mandate. Rotation of staff has been enabled by an air bridge connecting Almaty, Kazakhstan, to Afghanistan.

On 17 September, by its resolution 2596 (2021), the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMA, as defined in its resolution 2543 (2020), until 17 March 2022. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a written report to the Council by 31 January 2022 on strategic and operational recommendations for the mandate of UNAMA.

Following the adoption of a new resolution by the Council in 2022, should there be changes to the mandate of UNAMA, the Secretariat will require time to assess the implications for programme delivery as well as staffing and resources, and will prepare and submit a revised estimates report as soon as possible for review and approval by the legislative bodies in accordance with established procedures.

I thank you for your kind attention and look forward to answering your questions on this agenda item.