

"Mr. Chairman,

First let me thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget 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.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Peru on behalf of a group of Latin American countries.

Mr. Chairman,

As my delegation expresses its gratitude to the secretariat and the ACABQ for their work, we note with satisfaction the dates of issuance of the reports containing resource requirements for Special Political Missions, which is making it possible for the item to be introduced three weeks earlier in 2021 than it was last year. This will give more time for the Committee to deliberate on this important agenda item. We commend the ACABQ's effort for this timely issuance.

Special Political Missions have been playing an increasingly critical role in the promotion of international peace and security over the past decades. They are 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 peacebuilding.

The relative importance of the Special Political Missions in the peace and security pillar is of a growing nature. As the Organization seems to be moving away from the deployment of large, multidimensional peacekeeping operations, due to a

series of reasons, not least their financial impact, more and more special political missions are being established. An evidence of their growing trend is the relative weight of these Missions in the Regular Budget of the Organization. In just over 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 2022 - a sixfold increase. We also note that resource requirements for SPMs are expected to increase before this committee approves their budgets, due to the expansion of mandates decided by the Security Council. Even before any upcoming adjustments, it is worth noting that the overall level of resources requested for SPMs is larger than it was last year, even though two missions have been closed in the period.

Special Political Missions have been operating under a hybrid system that ought to be URGENTLY 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. The problem, widely identified by scholars, Member States and the Organization alike, demands urgent solution. A report BY the Secretary-General that addressed the consequences of this inconsistent system was issued 10 years ago and is still pending consideration. As an elected non permanent member to the Security Council for the term 2022-23, Brazil will continue to highlight this important issue, aiming at addressing the current inconsistency of SPMs financing system.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, in analyzing this important agenda item, Brazil would like to stress that 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."