

UNGA
71st session
Special Political and Decolonization
(Fourth) Committee

Thematic Debate
Comprehensive Review of the
Special Political Missions
27 October 2016

INDIA STATEMENT

First Secretary Ms. Eenam Gambhir

Mr. President,

1. Let me at the outset thank you for organizing this useful debate on the comprehensive review of the Special Political Missions (SPM). We would also like to thank the USGs Mr. Feltman and Mr. Khare for their comprehensive briefings as well as the President of the General Assembly for his statement earlier today.

Mr. President,

2. My delegation aligns itself with the Statement made by Morocco on behalf of the NAM.

3. We take note of the Report of the Secretary General on overall policy matters relating to the SPMs. As noted in the SG's report and witnessed by all of us everyday, the cause of peace in today's world unfortunately is on a consistent decline. SG has noted in his report that the number of active civil wars increased almost threefold between 2007 and 2014, the number of battle-related deaths and major civil wars is back to what it was in the mid-1990s and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons around the world has reached a peak of 60 million people raising the global humanitarian needs which for the year 2015 were close to almost USD \$20 billion. Need one say more on the importance of today's topic of debate and of the critical role played by the SPMs and the growing expectations from these missions.

Mr. President,

4. The thematic debate of the Fourth committee on the Comprehensive review of the Peacekeeping operations ended just yesterday. The theme of primacy of politics in prevention of conflicts and conflict resolution was echoed by almost all delegations. The two debates and issues are of course linked and feed into each other. To this end, we are in favor of allowing the political processes to be given their due place in the arena of peace and security and not

substitute it with peacekeeping operations which would be ill equipped to handle such a situation. To achieve success in its endeavors, UN must stick to the basic principles of pacific settlement of disputes and design such processes accordingly keeping in mind the principles of impartiality, consent of parties, national ownership of the political process and a respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States.

Mr. President,

5. The success of these endeavors esp. in the way UN operationalizes its peace operations demonstrate the collective responsibility of the entire membership and they should therefore be backed with the authority of all of us. In this regard we urge more involvement of the general membership in SPMs operations including in their mandate formulation and renewal and hope that the process will be more consultative in the future. We also expect that the Department of Political Affairs would organize more interactive briefings for the member states in general and especially by the heads of the SPMs. This would provide an opportunity for Member States to raise queries and offer suggestions on the functioning of SPMs. This will also feed into the policy formulation process for SPMs which as of today remains rather opaque and lacks transparency. We would also urge for more consultations between the larger membership and the UN Security Council on issues related to SPMs.

Mr. President,

6. The SPMs are perhaps the best and arguably the most utilized mechanisms of the UN including the UNSC to address the numerous crises across the world. However, the SPMs do not follow the regular budget cycles of the UN. More reliable resourcing through a regular budget for the UN's core prevention and mediation capabilities has been highlighted by many since many years and also recognized by the SG and other experts in various reports a number of times. Its about time we initiate the process for establishing a separate new account for SPMs. The demands of the SPMs must be financed through the same criteria, methodology and accountability used for UN Peacekeeping operations. This would enhance the transparency in the budgetary process of SPMs. We hope that the incoming SG would set the ball rolling for this much awaited process.

7. Finally, Mr. President implementing the suggestions above many of which have been repeated by many delegations, the SG and numerous experts, would serve us greatly both in the short term and in the longer term in the context of ever growing complexities of crises faced by us, the international community, in maintaining international peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. President.