

**74th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

**Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee Thematic Debate
Comprehensive Review of Special Political Missions**

**INDIA STATEMENT
by
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Deputy Permanent Representative**

08 November 2019

Thank you for organizing this debate on the comprehensive review of the Special Political Missions (SPMs). We would also like to thank the Under Secretaries Generals for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and for Field Support for their comprehensive briefings on the subject. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the NAM.

2. My delegation takes note of the **Report of the Secretary General** on overall policy matters relating to the Special Political Missions, which elaborates on the various UN reforms aimed at enabling SPMs to better deliver on their responsibilities.

3. These reforms include restructuring of the peace and security architecture to a single regional political-operational structure. We also take note of the Secretary General's focus on finding sustainable political solutions, enhancing regional coordination, and evolving more inclusive approaches to fulfilling the SPMs' mandates. We would welcome more information on the impact that these reforms have had on the functioning of the SPMs on the ground.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The forty SPMs operational today vary considerably in terms of their mandates and structures. Many of them operate in complex security situations, with both national and regional dimensions, as well as cross-border threats, such as transnational organized crime and terrorism. In this context, my delegation would like to highlight the following important aspects:

5. First, the **sovereignty and territorial integrity** of all States where the SPMs operate must be respected. The principles of impartiality, consent of parties, national ownership and national responsibility should be paramount at all stages of the missions.
6. Second, **opaque mechanisms** can never deliver truly durable results. There is a need for a genuinely transparent, participatory and consultative process, be it during inception of the Mission, mandate formulation or renewal. There has to be much greater communication and information flow between the Security Council, General Assembly and the Secretariat regarding SPMs, involving Member States in a substantive manner.
7. In this context, we hope that the DPPA will organise **more interactive briefings for member states** by the heads of the SPMs. This would give Member States a chance to raise queries and provide suggestions on improving the functioning of SPMs.
8. Third, we must urgently address the fragmented and ad-hoc manner in which the **funding** of SPMs is handled. SPMs do not follow the regular budget cycles of the UN, even though they are its most utilized mechanism.
9. A **separate account for SPMs**, to be assessed at peacekeeping scales and in line with the peacekeeping budget cycle, would enhance transparency in the budgetary process of SPMs.
10. Implementing these suggestions, several of which have been echoed by the Secretary General, and many delegations here, would serve us immensely in improving the functioning, transparency and accountability of SPMs.
11. To conclude, we thank the Secretariat again for the information shared today, and look forward to continue and deepen this dialogue.

Thank you.