



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 57

### Comprehensive review of special political missions

#### Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

*Rapporteur:* Youssouf Aden **Moussa** (Djibouti)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Comprehensive review of special political missions” and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).
2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 6th meeting, on 12 October 2021, and during its joint general debate on agenda items 50 to 63 at its 8th to 14th meetings, on 19, 20, 22, 25 and 27 October and on 1 and 3 November. The Committee took action on item 57 at its 15th meeting, on 9 November. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.<sup>1</sup>
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions (A/76/198).
4. At the 6th meeting, on 12 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs presented the report of the Secretary-General. The Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support also made a statement.

## II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.4/76/L.10](#)

5. At the 15th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein,

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<sup>1</sup> [A/C.4/76/SR.6](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.8](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.9](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.10](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.11](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.12](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.13](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.14](#) and [A/C.4/76/SR.15](#).



Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Switzerland, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Comprehensive review of special political missions” ([A/C.4/76/L.10](#)). Subsequently, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Madagascar, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/76/L.10](#) without a vote (see para. 8).

### III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Comprehensive review of special political missions**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* its resolution [67/123](#) of 18 December 2012 and its subsequent resolutions on the comprehensive review of special political missions, including resolution [75/100](#) of 10 December 2020,

*Reaffirming its commitment* to respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

*Recalling* the primary role of the United Nations and the respective roles and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter, and recalling also in this context the contribution of regional and subregional arrangements and the important role they can play, as appropriate,

*Recalling also* the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of substantively identical resolutions [70/262](#) and [2282 \(2016\)](#) of 27 April 2016, further recalling the adoption of resolutions [72/276](#) and [2413 \(2018\)](#) of 26 April 2018 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and recognizing in this regard the important role played by special political missions in the area of sustaining peace, as a goal and a process, where mandated, as well as resolutions [75/201](#) and [2558 \(2020\)](#) of 21 December 2020 on the third review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture,

*Recognizing* the important role of the special political missions as a flexible tool for the maintenance of international peace and security, including through contributions to a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [75/1](#) of 21 September 2020 on the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, in which it called for the diplomatic toolbox of the Charter to be used to its full potential, including preventive diplomacy and mediation,

*Stressing* that actions by the United Nations should support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments,

*Encouraging* enhanced exchanges of information, in an appropriate manner, among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat, making use of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, when relevant, on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions,

*Reaffirming* the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, and stressing the significance of the views of and dialogue with countries hosting special political missions,

*Recalling* the relevant reports on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions,<sup>1</sup> which addressed the financial and

<sup>1</sup> [A/66/340](#) and [A/66/7/Add.21](#).

administrative arrangements pertaining to such missions, recognizing that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

*Recognizing*, in this regard, the importance of adequately resourcing the peacebuilding components of relevant special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown, to support the stability and continuity of peacebuilding activities,

*Stressing* the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the pacific settlement of disputes, including mediation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Acknowledging* the significant increase in the number and complexity of special political missions and the challenges faced by them, including most recently the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

*Underlining* the need for system-wide coherence between special political missions and the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of close cooperation between special political missions, peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

*Recognizing* the need for special political missions to operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates, including through the articulation of their goals and purposes, and the need to review their progress as stipulated in their respective mandates,

*Stressing* the need for, as relevant, enhanced coordination and cooperation between special political missions and concerned regional and subregional organizations, particularly leveraging ongoing strategic partnerships, to take concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and emphasizing the need to build and strengthen human and institutional capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels,

*Recognizing* the importance of efforts towards improving broad geographical representation, gender balance and expertise in the composition of all special political missions, and acknowledging the necessity of reducing the overall environmental footprint of relevant special political missions and, where mandated, identifying climate-related risks,

*Recalling* the relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the need for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

*Recalling also* the relevant resolutions on youth, peace and security, and affirming the important role that youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

*Noting* that the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat have a single, regional political-operational structure shared between both Departments, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/262](#) C of 5 July 2018,

*Stressing* that the United Nations should ensure a more coordinated approach to strengthen the ability of special political missions to deliver on their mandates and

should contribute to ensuring enhanced accountability, coherence and effectiveness of special political missions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 75/100;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, and requests the Secretariat to reach out to Member States prior to the holding of such dialogue to ensure wide and meaningful participation;

3. *Respects* the purview of the mandate of special political missions, as stipulated in the respective relevant resolutions, recognizes the specificity of each mandate of such missions, and emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in discussing the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions;

4. *Acknowledges* the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation of the Security Council and the General Assembly with the Peacebuilding Commission, and in this regard encourages the Security Council to continue to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates, in line with General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016);

5. *Encourages* special political missions to continue fostering inclusive partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate and in line with respective mandates, to address multidimensional challenges to peace and security, including during transitions;

6. *Also encourages* special political missions, where consistent with their mandates, to work closely with the United Nations country teams, as well as relevant partners, to ensure coherence and coordination, including in support of efforts of host countries to implement comprehensive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-seventh session, a timely report on the implementation of the present resolution regarding the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspective and the equal participation of women, as well as youth participation, and in this regard also requests the Secretary-General to include relevant detailed information on these matters in the report;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the aforementioned report information on the impact of the reforms on the implementation of the mandates of the special political missions, including regarding transparency and accountability;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Comprehensive review of special political missions” and to consider the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General under that item.

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<sup>2</sup> A/76/198.