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Agenda item 57

Comprehensive review of special political missions

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

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventieth 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 16th, 20th and 24th meetings, on 30 October and on 6 and 12 November 2015 (see [A/C.4/70/SR.16](#), 20 and 24).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General entitled “The future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations” ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#));
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions ([A/70/400](#));
 - (c) Identical letters dated 17 June 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council ([A/70/95-S/2015/446](#)).
4. At the 16th meeting, on 30 October, the Deputy Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the future of United Nations peace operations ([A/70/357-S/2015/682](#)). The Committee then held an interactive dialogue, during which the Deputy Secretary-General responded to questions posed by representatives of Member States (see [A/C.4/70/SR.16](#)).

* Reissued for technical reasons on 1 December 2015.



5. At the 20th meeting, on 6 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs introduced the report of the Secretary-General on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions (A/70/400). The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support also made a statement (see A/C.4/70/SR.20).

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.4/70/L.14](#)

6. At the 24th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Costa Rica, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Paraguay, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Comprehensive review of special political missions” (A/C.4/70/L.14). Subsequently, Austria, the Central African Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Turkey and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

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

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/70/L.14](#) without a vote (see para. 9).

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

9. 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 resolutions 67/123 of 18 December 2012, 68/85 of 11 December 2013 and 69/95 of 5 December 2014 on the comprehensive review of special political missions,

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, as appropriate,

Encouraging enhanced exchanges of information, in an appropriate manner, among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat, 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,¹ which addressed the financial and 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,

Stressing the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the pacific settlement of disputes, including mediation, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, 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,

Recognizing the important role of the special political mission as a flexible tool for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the need for system-wide coherence between special political missions and the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of close

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

cooperation between special political missions, peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Recognizing further 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,

Recognizing the importance of efforts towards improving broad geographical representation, gender balance and expertise in the composition of all special political missions,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and recognizing the importance of the equal and effective participation and the full involvement of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General² and the report of the High-level Independent Panel,³ and acknowledging their emphasis on the primacy of political solutions to conflicts,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 69/95;⁴

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, and encourages 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. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a timely report on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender participation, expertise and effectiveness in respect of all special political missions, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to include relevant detailed information on these matters in the report;

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

² [A/70/357-S/2015/682](#).

³ See [A/70/95-S/2015/446](#).

⁴ [A/70/400](#).