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## Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

### Summary record of the 21st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 4 November 2022, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Al Hassan . . . . . (Oman)  
*later:* Mr. Kasselakis (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Greece)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 49: Comprehensive review of special political missions (A/77/283; A/C.4/77/L.8)**

1. **Ms. DiCarlo** (Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions (A/77/283), said that, during the high-level segment of the current session of the General Assembly, in September 2022, global leaders had expressed concern over the deteriorating international peace and security environment. Multiple major challenges were rapidly converging, including more complex conflicts, rising inequality, climate change, technological disruption, terrorism, recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and skyrocketing food and oil prices. Meanwhile, the ability of Member States to take collective action to address those challenges was being undermined by geostrategic competition, which had been revived to levels not seen in decades. Collaboration among Member States was key to navigating the current state of uncertainty.

2. In the Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations set out in General Assembly resolution 75/1, it was emphasized that multilateralism was not an option but a necessity in building back better for a more equal, more resilient and more sustainable world. In the Declaration, particular attention had been given to promoting peace and preventing conflict. It had been noted that the diplomatic toolbox of the Charter of the United Nations needed to be used to its potential, including preventive diplomacy and mediation, and should be enhanced by the Secretary-General. Special political missions were a vital part of that toolbox, particularly through their work in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacebuilding. Their diversity and flexibility had enabled different types of responses to the many current peace and security challenges, including work with parties to conflicts and regional stakeholders to advance complex peace processes.

3. The work of special political missions included efforts by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to assist in brokering a six-month nationwide truce, which had led to a significant reduction in violence and civilian casualties. While there were ongoing tensions, and no truce renewal agreement had been reached, there had also been no reports of a return to open hostilities. In Somalia, Libya and elsewhere, special political missions were supporting national authorities in managing political transitions and electoral processes. The United Nations Assistance

Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) had provided enhanced electoral assistance during the parliamentary elections in October 2021 and, following the election, had worked with all parties to overcome the political stalemate.

4. Missions also worked closely with host Governments in the aftermath of conflict to help build sustainable peace. The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia was working with the parties to the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace reached between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) to build confidence and to consolidate inclusive, lasting peace in the country. The Mission was supporting multiple peacebuilding initiatives, notably on reintegration, security guarantees, transitional justice and reconciliation, in close coordination with the United Nations country team. Those efforts had enabled the Mission to make significant contributions to the nationally led peace consolidation process, including through promoting the sustainable reintegration of over 13,000 former combatants.

5. The report of the Secretary-General covered a range of policy issues, including the women and peace and security agenda. However, the international community’s commitments to promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes were still not being sufficiently implemented. High-level strategy meetings were being convened to promote such participation, in line with Security Council resolution 2493 (2019). The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) was advocating the inclusion of women at all levels in political processes and decision-making bodies and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan (UNITAMS) had helped to establish a women’s rights group that was positioned to participate in the next phase of political talks in the country.

6. Efforts had also been made to ensure a regional approach to peace and security. Strengthening United Nations partnerships with regional and subregional organizations was integral to the vision of the Secretary-General for a networked and inclusive multilateralism, and was critical to national and regional conflict prevention and peacemaking. The regional offices of the missions had regional mandates, which served as platforms for preventive diplomacy and helped Member States to address cross-border and cross-regional issues such as countering terrorism and managing shared natural resources. They had also helped to institutionalize strategic partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, most visibly in Africa. The

year 2022 marked the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the African Union and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). Notably, the partnership between UNOWAS and the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) had proved essential for peace and stability in the region. UNOWAS and ECOWAS had advocated the swift return to constitutional order following military coups; inclusive political dialogue; and consensus-building ahead of key elections, while working to defuse tensions following contested electoral outcomes.

7. In order to address the current complex global environment, the Secretary-General had offered a robust vision in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda” (A/75/982) for strengthening work in prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, which was central to the mandates of the special political missions. Delivering on all related commitments required collaboration, and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs would engage closely with Member States to seek their views and priorities in that process. The Department also looked forward to working with Member States to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the deployment of the first United Nations special political mission in the Middle East. Lastly, the Department welcomed the continued engagement and support of Member States with regard to special political missions, particularly host countries, and paid tribute to the United Nations personnel serving in those missions worldwide.

8. **Mr. Khare** (Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support) said that the work of those serving in the special political missions worldwide remained critical to long-term efforts towards building and maintaining peace. The annual report provided both an overview of the breadth and complexity of missions tasks and an opportunity to reflect on their contributions, particularly given the challenges of the current environment and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. The Department of Operational Support had leveraged its supply chain and medical expertise to establish a United Nations system-wide medical evacuation mechanism, to ensure that missions could deliver on their mandates, particularly in locations with insufficient medical infrastructure. To date, 355 medical evacuations of COVID-19 patients had been undertaken, including for special political mission personnel. The Department had also procured and distributed equipment and consumables in challenging market conditions and had created a United Nations system-wide vaccination programme to distribute over 450,000

vaccine doses to 72 country teams, including to special political missions. It had established new tracking and reporting mechanisms and responded to the changing guidelines between countries. The fact that the Department had largely been able to emerge from the pandemic was a testament to the hard work of personnel and informed decision-making by the leadership. The Department continued to support the special political missions in exercising the authority delegated to them by the Secretary-General, which was a cornerstone of the management reform. It had not requested any additional resources for that purpose.

10. Over the previous year, the Department had addressed over 400 human resources-related requests from special political missions, promoted the streamlining of various human resources processes and supported initiatives to bring more women into leadership positions. It had deployed experienced and skilled personnel to several United Nations entities over the previous 12 months to provide surge support in special situations, in addition to other support, such as the deployment of armoured vehicles. Surge capacity had first been developed for operational staff, but the Department was now collaborating with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations to establish similar pools of staff within the peace and security pillar.

11. The Department of Operational Support had been able to mitigate the impact of increased fuel costs on the provision of support, while also aligning its global supply chains with strategic development goals and the United Nations Secretariat Climate Action Plan 2020–2030. To accelerate the use of renewable energy in field missions, the Department had expanded the renewable energy global system contracts portfolio to provide new options, including turnkey solutions for lighting, power generation and water treatment. In that way, entities could acquire renewable energy solutions quickly, guaranteeing quality products, lower costs and reduced risks. The Department was also finalizing a contract for hybrid diesel-electric vehicles with a view to reducing its reliance on non-renewable energy. A steady improvement had been registered in the environmental performance of the special political missions over the previous five years. The Department planned to develop a way forward for environmental strategy through consultations with Member States, as requested in General Assembly resolution [76/274](#) (2022).

12. The Department provided a full package of operational support to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), which had been critical in giving political and electoral assistance to the Government of Somalia. It continued to support the

transition of security responsibilities from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia to the Somali security forces. The Department had also focused on the establishment of UNITAMS, incorporating the knowledge gathered by the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to support that transition. UNAMI had provided enhanced electoral assistance during the 2021 Iraqi elections, with a range of operational support including the deployment of electoral experts and medical support personnel, and the provision of 200 armoured vehicles.

13. The Department continued to work with the relevant parties to support the work of its two special political missions in Yemen, including by providing offshore medical evacuation capacities for emergency situations. It was working to support the presence of the United Nations Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA), on both sides of the ceasefire line, to ensure neutrality and closer engagement with the parties. In Afghanistan, the Department had assisted with the evacuation and relocation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the country team personnel in August 2021, and had continued to provide support to the mission throughout the crisis.

14. The special political missions were key partners in the peace and security architecture. The Department remained committed to supporting the efforts of missions to deliver on their mandates and enabling them to harness innovation and data-driven technologies to that end, in line with the Secretary-General's Data Strategy and Strategy on New Technologies.

15. *The meeting was suspended at 3.35 p.m. and resumed at 4 p.m.*

16. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

17. **Ms. Ouazzani Chahdi** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that, as the most representative body of the United Nations, the General Assembly was a key platform to discuss matters related to special political missions.

18. The Movement had constructively engaged in negotiations on the annual resolution on the comprehensive review of special political missions, and looked forward to its adoption by consensus. Only ideas and approaches that had been collectively adopted by Member States should be implemented. The Movement was committed to supporting efforts to optimize the effectiveness of the special political missions, which were a central tool for international action and assistance to host countries in overcoming conflict and supporting national efforts to build sustainable peace.

Nonetheless, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States must be respected. The United Nations played a vital role in the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, all of which were critical to successful transitions.

19. Given the growing complexity of special political missions, the Security Council and the General Assembly should ensure that their mandates were achievable, based on an objective assessment and matched by sufficient resources. Care should be taken to ensure that mandates were consistent with resources, especially as the financial requirements of missions continued to increase. Special political missions did not follow the regular budget cycle of the United Nations, despite being funded from the budget of the United Nations. They should be financed using the same criteria, methodology and mechanisms used to fund peacekeeping operations, including the establishment of a new separate account for special political missions.

20. The Movement welcomed the commitment of the Secretary-General to improve transparency, balanced geographical representation and representation of women throughout the Organization, including in field-based special political missions. The Secretary-General should consider such issues when making appointments to senior leadership positions, particularly those of special representatives and envoys and members of panels of experts established by the Security Council.

21. **Mr. Nasir** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN welcomed the Secretary-General's continued efforts to reform the United Nations peace and security architecture. The reforms should aim to enhance the accountability, coherence and effectiveness of the special political missions in delivering their mandates. National ownership was crucial to achieving sustainable peace, which required better coordination between the special political missions and their host countries. The host country bore the primary responsibility in advancing its own priorities and peacebuilding initiatives. Close dialogue and engagement with other affected countries was also crucial.

22. ASEAN called for increased cooperation between special political missions and regional and subregional organizations and entities, and remained committed to strengthening its partnership with the United Nations in conflict prevention, mediation and sustaining peace. Inclusiveness was integral to addressing the root causes of conflict and achieving sustainable peace. Special

political missions must therefore strive to benefit all people, especially those most at risk, including women and girls. More should be done to promote the representation of women, including in field-based special political missions. Wider geographical representation in all special political missions was also necessary to maintain the legitimacy of such missions as tools for conflict prevention.

23. ASEAN would engage constructively with all stakeholders to identify criteria, methods and mechanisms to provide more predictable, adequate and sustained financing for special political missions. All stakeholders must ensure the safety and security of special political mission staff and assets. Sustainable peace and sustainable development were mutually reinforcing and should be addressed together.

24. **Mr. Pyysalo** (Finland), introducing draft resolution [A/C.4/77/L.8](#) (Comprehensive review of special political missions), and speaking also on behalf of Mexico, said that, as the number of violent conflicts was at a record high since the end of the Second World War, the importance of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace could not be overstated. In that connection, A New Agenda for Peace was an opportunity to improve and strengthen the United Nations diplomatic toolbox. Special political missions were a highly versatile and flexible tool that could be used during the various phases of conflict. The work of the staff involved in such missions, often in very challenging circumstances, was commendable. Special political missions must have the necessary capacities and resources to enable the fulfilment of their mandates, including predictable and sustainable financing for peacebuilding.

25. As emphasized in the report of the Secretary-General, the special political missions undertook critical work in the promotion of human rights and in enhancing the inclusion of women, youth and other marginalized groups in political and peace processes. An inclusive approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace was key, involving the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes and gender mainstreaming in preventive work. Special political missions also had an important role to play in engaging youth. The report also took climate-related issues into account, in relation to their impact on the work of the special political missions.

26. With regard to the draft resolution, substantive negotiations had taken place at the seventy-sixth session, and stronger wording had been introduced in relation to inclusion; the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace processes; encouraging

the missions to foster partnerships with regional and subregional organizations; and acknowledging and identifying climate-related risks. The changes made to the draft resolution at the current session were largely technical, reflecting General Assembly resolution [76/6](#) and the relevance of A New Agenda for Peace to special political missions. Any policy implications pertaining to special political missions in the upcoming report on A New Agenda for Peace would be taken into account in negotiations at the following session. A reference to General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) on financing for peacebuilding had also been included in the draft resolution.

27. *Mr. Kasselakis (Greece), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

28. **Mr. Llosa** (Peru) said that special political missions could help support transition processes from conflict to peace and development by creating synergies between States, regional and subregional organizations and civil society. Support for those processes in the mandates of special political missions should be defined broadly, taking into account the needs of all actors involved, including national authorities, the private and production sectors and local and popular movements, such as those led by women and youth.

29. Special political mission mandates must guarantee respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the States in which they operated. Robust cooperation must also be ensured between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, with a gender perspective that included the participation, on equal terms, of women and youth. Special political missions should prioritize supporting local authorities; protecting civilian populations; preventing the resurgence of conflicts; effectively implementing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and building capacities in the areas of production, justice and security.

30. The relationship between mission staff and the populations affected by violence, particularly in transition periods, should take into account the root causes of conflicts, including poverty, inequality, the exclusion of groups based on ethnicity, religion or geography, discrimination and attacks on dignity. Any assessment of such situations should be flexible and subject to independent standards applied on a case-by-case basis. It must be underpinned by ethical considerations, and by an awareness that strengthened governance served to build trust and restore the social fabric.

31. His delegation was pleased that the text of the draft resolution reflected the provisions of General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) and drew on A New Agenda for Peace.

32. **Mr. Lagdameo** (Philippines) said that special political missions served not only to manage short-term crises, but were part of an approach to sustaining peace, and they should therefore be focused to a greater extent on conflict prevention and mediation and involve key stakeholders at every stage. The predictability and sustainability of financing to regional and subregional organizations working to deploy United Nations peacekeeping operations must also be enhanced. Greater collaboration between ASEAN and the United Nations should also be considered, including the exchange of best practices through the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2021–2025).

33. The appointment of more women to senior leadership positions, particularly as special representatives and envoys in United Nations missions and country teams, would serve to strengthen partnerships between special political missions and regional and subregional organizations. The Philippines continued to support the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on measures to improve the funding and backstopping arrangements for special political missions, including the establishment of a special account.

34. **Ms. Zalabata Torres** (Colombia) said that the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and the focus on challenges resulting from humanitarian, food, energy, social, migrant and political crises, among others, had become key priorities and required coordinated multilateral action, in full application of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The work of the special political missions was a tangible example of what could be achieved when taking into account the specific realities on the ground, national ownership and the strengthening of democratic institutions.

35. Her Government remained strongly committed to the implementation of the Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace with the guerrillas of the FARC-EP in Colombia. The 9151st meeting of the Security Council on Colombia, held on 12 October 2022, in which the quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (S/2022/715) had been presented, was a clear sign of the commitment of the members of the Security Council to her country. Her Government had a clear mandate for peace and the strengthening of its democracy, and was committed to implementing the Final Agreement to End the Armed Conflict and Build a Stable and Lasting Peace; reducing inequality; governance with and for women; zero

tolerance for corruption; and the holding of regional dialogues to enable local authorities and communities to contribute to policymaking.

36. **Mr. Al-tememy** (Iraq) said that special political missions played a crucial role in bolstering national and regional peacebuilding efforts, pursuing preventive diplomacy, assisting refugees and displaced persons and combating organized crime. His Government valued the efforts of UNAMI and the United Nations country team and welcomed the Organization's call on civil society to rebuild and help to stabilize liberated areas of the country, enabling the displaced to return home. UNAMI had given a balanced and objective account of its progress in relation to the formation of a government, the fight against corruption and the humanitarian response.

37. More international and United Nations support was needed in the area of counter-terrorism. Member States should pursue efforts to cut off funding for terrorist groups, foremost among them Da'esh; restrict the movement of foreign terrorist fighters; prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and continue to provide technical assistance with the reintegration of victims into society.

38. Iraq supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and, in particular, the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. It welcomed the investigations being carried out by the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD) to indict members of Da'esh under Iraqi law.

39. Through its support for Iraqi government institutions, UNAMI was helping Iraq restore peace and settle all pending issues, in line with the principles of good governance, with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16. UNAMI should consider employing as many local staff as possible. Moreover, greater consultation with the Iraqi Government was needed in preparing the quarterly reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, in order to address matters of importance to both sides and ensure greater cooperation between the mission and the relevant national entities.

40. There was a need to increase the representation of Iraq in United Nations entities in a manner commensurate with its geographical location and membership in the Organization and a number of its specialized agencies.

41. **Mr. Attelb** (Egypt) said that there was a need to strengthen the role of special political missions in

addressing the root causes of conflicts and contributing to peacebuilding efforts. To that end, during its tenure as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Egypt had promoted the Commission's engagement with special political missions, especially in Africa. It was important to ensure that those missions had sufficient financial and human resources. General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) on financing for peacebuilding contained relevant recommendations and a request to the Secretary-General to continue to elaborate options for adequate resourcing of peacebuilding activities in the context of special political missions, including during mission transitions.

42. Given the need to factor in the regional dimensions of crises, it was important to deepen the partnership between special political missions and regional and subregional organizations. There was also a need to reform existing mechanisms for funding and supporting special political missions, in view of their increased number and expanded roles. The allocation of funding for special political missions currently accounted for 23 per cent of the proposed programme budget for 2023. Such allocation undermined the Organization's capacity to support Member States in their bid to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, while the majority of those missions had been established pursuant to Security Council resolutions, they were funded from the regular budget of the Organization, as if the entire membership had participated in the adoption of the resolutions establishing special political missions. Egypt therefore called for a review of the funding arrangements for special political missions and for the establishment of an independent account for those missions, which would be funded on the same budget schedule as peacekeeping operations.

43. It was unacceptable that a single geographical group had the lion's share of international posts in special political missions, including 54 per cent of senior leadership posts. It was therefore essential to take serious, prompt action to ensure equitable geographical representation. He urged the Secretary-General to redouble efforts to that end and update Member States on progress achieved. Lastly, the Secretary-General's proposal on A New Agenda for Peace, set out in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda", constituted an opportunity for Member States to consider prioritizing investment in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, in line with the principle of national ownership, and also to examine how to strengthen the role of special political missions in that regard.

44. **Ms. Tayob** (South Africa) said that special political missions were key to promoting conflict prevention and sustaining peace, as they put mediation at the forefront of their operations. They also allowed

the United Nations to play a more effective role across the conflict resolution continuum, which was crucial at a time when resources were being dramatically cut. Special political missions played a pivotal role in advancing the women and peace and security agenda, promoting youth engagement in peace processes, maintaining regional partnerships, preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. They should continue to be used as a platform to promote the participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes and to incorporate a gender perspective into peacebuilding work. The women and peace and security policy of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs was commendable, as it ensured the inclusion of gender-sensitive analysis and the meaningful participation of women in peacemaking contexts globally. The participation of both women and youth in political processes were key prerequisites for the promotion of good governance, the building of peaceful societies and the development of an inclusive democracy and policies that responded to the specific needs of younger generations.

45. South Africa commended the work of UNOWAS and ECOWAS in advancing preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention in the region. It also welcomed the efforts of UNOWAS in collaboration with member States to promote good governance, the rule of law, human rights and the participation of women and youth in political and peace processes. To enable special political missions to deliver on their mandates, effective coordination and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations were critical. Missions must be provided with the tools and resources they required, with a view to fostering sustainable political resolutions and protecting populations. It was necessary to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for special political missions, and a separate fund should be created to ensure the predictability and transparency of funds dedicated to special political missions.

46. **Ms. Baños Müller** (El Salvador) said that El Salvador aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Strengthening the exchange of information between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat was essential to guaranteeing a coherent and coordinated approach in the deployment of special political missions, in addition to the support provided by the Peacebuilding Commission. Given its own experience, El Salvador recognized the essential role of the special political missions in peacekeeping and international security and their contributions to conflict prevention and resolution and to peacebuilding. In order to ensure the effectiveness of

those missions, their mandates must take into account the specificities on the ground, with viable and practicable objectives, together with sufficient resources, in line with General Assembly resolution 76/305.

47. As a police-contributing country, El Salvador remained fully committed to continuing its assistance to special political missions, as well as to ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution. Reconfiguring the physical presence of the United Nations was key to sustaining the results of special political missions over time. Transitions, which often took place in highly complex situations, required careful planning and adequate resources. Youth had a vital part to play in in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacebuilding activities. The geographic representation of special political missions should also be expanded, together with an increase in the participation of women.

48. **Mr. Abusrewel** (Libya) said that the chief aim of special political missions, their propagation and diversification notwithstanding, remained to prevent conflicts and contain existing conflicts. The retreat of the COVID-19 pandemic might enable those missions to address the root causes of conflicts more effectively and directly. His delegation welcomed the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL. That mission had played the critical role of facilitator, bridging the positions of the Libyan parties as well as building trust and promoting constructive cooperation among them in its effort to establish a dialogue, promote a consensus solution to the crisis and eventually support the holding of general elections. His delegation hoped that UNSMIL would assume a more effective role in support of national leaders, thereby promoting a Libyan-owned resolution and national stability.

49. **Mr. Hauri** (Switzerland) said that his country commended the work of the special political missions, which played a key early-warning role and prioritized human rights as an integral part of long-term peacebuilding efforts. In the light of complex and challenging contexts, special political missions remained an important instrument for supporting peace and facilitating dialogue. Switzerland supported the Secretary-General's vision set out in the report entitled "Our Common Agenda" and his proposal to create A New Agenda for Peace.

50. Sustainable peace could be achieved only through the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, including non-State actors, civil society and regional and subregional organizations. In February 2023, and

for the fourth time since 2016, Switzerland and UNOWAS would organize a regional conference in Dakar on violent extremism. Political will was needed in order to strengthen preventive measures, overcome transnational challenges, and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making. When formulating special political mission mandates, the Security Council should include provisions related to gender-based analysis and the promotion of gender equality. Doing so would also require adequately resourced gender expertise.

51. Special political missions contributed to preventing and addressing protection gaps in transition contexts, and to ensuring that peacebuilding priorities were supported through early and comprehensive planning. In the Sudan, his country had supported UNITAMS in the establishment of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee for Darfur. When approaching a transition phase, special political missions could ensure the protection of civil and human rights as a priority in the planning and implementation of transition tasks, with a view to avoiding any gaps in the security of the civilian population.

52. The Peacebuilding Fund played a critical role in the provision of predictable and adequate funding. However, there was currently a funding deficit in peacebuilding, and a need for increased contributions to peacebuilding in general and to the Peacebuilding Fund in particular. As one of the principal donors to the Fund, and as a future member of the Security Council, Switzerland remained engaged in transition contexts. His delegation commended UNSOM, UNOWAS and the Office of the Coordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan for their efforts to integrate climate-related security risks into their daily political analysis, which served as a good example of how climate, peace and security issues could be addressed in mission mandates.

53. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) said that, as the host country of over one million Rohingyas from Myanmar, Bangladesh attached great importance to the mandate of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, who required the full support of that country to find a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis. The General Assembly should extend the mandate of the Special Envoy and ensure provision of the resources necessary for its delivery. The Special Envoy should also engage with the Myanmar authority in order to proceed to the safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh.

54. Bangladesh had been contributing to special political missions through support in capacity-building, information-sharing and providing the services of legal officials and experts. In order to realize A New Agenda for Peace set out by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, the effectiveness of special political missions must be enhanced through adequate resources, and their potential must be optimized through the relevant policy decisions. A coherent and coordinated approach within and beyond the United Nations system was needed to ensure the effectiveness of work in the field, including between special political missions, peacekeeping operations, United Nations country teams and regional and local organizations. The Peacebuilding Commission also played a critical role in facilitating the work of the missions, and was a potential platform for the exchange of information, experience and views between missions and local and regional organizations.

55. Bangladesh welcomed efforts to address thematic issues such as women and peace and security and youth, peace and security in relation to special political missions, in line with Security Council resolutions [2493 \(2019\)](#) and [2535 \(2020\)](#). The commitments of the Secretary-General to promoting a more diverse workforce and improving the representation of women throughout the Organization were also welcome. Balanced geographical representation must also be taken into account, while ensuring adequate resourcing of the mandated peacebuilding activities of special political missions. Bangladesh therefore supported the Secretary-General’s enhanced resource allocation proposal for 2023. The creation of a special account for special political missions should also be considered, based on assessed contributions from Member States.

56. **Mr. Bin Hathlain** (Saudi Arabia) said that special political missions played a vital part in upholding collective security, promoting preventive diplomacy, containing conflicts and strengthening the capacity of States to protect and provide for their citizens. In order for the missions to carry out their mandates, coordination and cooperation between Member States and the United Nations must be strengthened. It was also important to promote collaboration and cooperation between special political missions and the relevant regional organizations.

57. With respect to the situation in Yemen, his Government supported the attempts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to find a political solution to the crisis. In response to the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire during the COVID-19 pandemic, Saudi Arabia had established and subsequently extended a ceasefire, while the Houthi

militias had instead continued to attack Saudi Arabian cities and borders, as well as civilians inside Yemen. Saudi Arabia had the right to defend its citizens and territory against systematic Houthi militia attacks. A political solution must be based on the three terms of reference, namely, the Initiative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its implementation mechanism; the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference; and Security Council resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#). His delegation hoped that a team of experts would prepare a United Nations report on the establishment of special political missions to enable officials to formulate a specific strategy on addressing the missions’ varied challenges and enabling them to fulfil their mandates.

58. **Ms. Mitsui** (Japan) said that special political missions, along with peacekeeping operations, were among the most powerful functions of the United Nations. Their diversity in terms of geography and scope required tailored mandates for field-based missions, in accordance with their individual contexts. The Security Council must ensure that special political missions had focused and achievable mandates, in line with the circumstances of each mission. While every mission was unique, certain common elements should be prioritized in any special political mission. They included the participation of women in peace processes, as seen in UNSOM and UNAMI, and measures to ensure a successful transition. When peacebuilding work was being undertaken by a wide range of partners, including United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, and regional and civil organizations, it was necessary for special political missions to coordinate those efforts in the field. The General Assembly played a significant role in promoting the work of special political missions, particularly in the context of challenging political environments.

59. **Ms. Haile** (Eritrea) said that the General Assembly had a critical role to play in the development of policies on special political missions. Geopolitical rivalries were currently causing serious tensions and uncertainty, against the backdrop of a complex international peace and security landscape. In the light of protracted armed conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, and the transnational issues of climate change, crime and human trafficking, cooperation was the only viable path towards sustainable peace, security and progress.

60. The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and other calamities, such as poverty, violence and mass displacement, had global implications. The Summit of the Future would serve as a platform to discuss ways of ensuring that multilateralism worked for all, particularly the nations of the Global South. Restoring the credibility of the United Nations should also be prioritized. A New

Agenda for Peace should aim to transform the Organization into an institution that was truly representative of all nations, each one contributing to peace and security in accordance with their capabilities and in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

61. Special political missions were fulfilling their mandates in ever-changing and complex environments and undertaking multifaceted tasks in conflict prevention. They could contribute to maintaining international peace and security if deployed with clear and actionable mandates, consent of the host Government, support from the Security Council and regional States, and a clear exit strategy. National ownership and consultations with regional States were key in that regard. For its part, Eritrea had been making significant progress in building a nation based on inclusiveness, while avoiding the pitfalls of sectarianism, radicalization and terrorism.

62. **Mr. de Oliveira Freitas** (Brazil) said that special political missions had played an increasingly important role in the promotion of international peace and security in recent years, serving as effective tools of both preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peacebuilding. There was more frequent recourse to special political missions than to traditional peacekeeping operations, because approval from the Security Council was easier to obtain, as special political missions were smaller, non-militarized and more readily consented to by the host countries; their mandates generally provided a greater level of national ownership; and they were less costly and had broader mandates that addressed the root causes of conflict.

63. His delegation wished to highlight the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia in monitoring the implementation of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace reached between the Government and the FARC-EP. In Haiti, the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti was building on the achievements of the previous two peacekeeping operations, under very difficult circumstances. Special political missions operated under a hybrid system whereby they were established by the Security Council but funded under the regular budget. That created an imbalance whereby only a small number of Member States took part in decisions to establish special political missions but the entire United Nations membership was responsible for their funding. The Organization's wider membership should therefore engage more actively in discussions on special political missions, in particular in the General Assembly and its Fourth Committee.

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64. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

65. **Ms. Ukabiala** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.4/77/L.8 was adopted.*

67. **Ms. Agaronova** (Russian Federation) said that, notwithstanding the predominantly technical nature of the updates to the document, the sponsors had also added provisions pertaining to A New Agenda for Peace. Opinions had varied regarding the appropriateness of that step and the possible wording to be used. Her delegation considered that the concept remained under development. Member States had been asked for their contributions to its substantive content; however, the Secretariat had yet to analyse and compile those contributions. Those steps should be taken in a balanced fashion.

68. In General Assembly resolution [76/6](#), reference was made to principles for work in the context of the further consideration of "Our Common Agenda" by Member States. Her delegation trusted that those principles would also apply to A New Agenda for Peace, which was an integral part of "Our Common Agenda", and that the document would not be submitted as a final product. Only through broad, comprehensive consultations and intergovernmental consideration could the Secretary-General's proposals contribute substantially to the advancement of A New Agenda for Peace.

*The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.*