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Agenda item 52

Comprehensive review of special political missions

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 7 December 2023

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/78423, para. 8)]

78/79. 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 [77/127](#) of 12 December 2022,

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,

Recalling further the adoption of Security Council resolution [2668 \(2022\)](#) of 21 December 2022 on the mental health of United Nations peace operations personnel,



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,

Noting that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the first special political mission,

Recalling its resolution [76/6](#) of 15 November 2021 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”,¹ noting the important role of special political missions as a central component of the continuum of United Nations responses to peace and security challenges, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of including special political missions in the discussions to be led by Member States on A New Agenda for Peace, as a follow-up to the policy brief presented by the Secretary-General in July 2023,²

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,³ 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,

Recalling also resolution [76/305](#) of 8 September 2022, recognizing in this regard that financing for peacebuilding remains a critical challenge and recognizing also 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,

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, United

¹ [A/75/982](#).

² [A/77/CRP.1/Add.8](#).

³ [A/66/340](#) and [A/66/7/Add.21](#).

Nations country teams and resident coordinators for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Recognizing the need for special political missions to operate under clear, credible, sequenced 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,

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 [77/127](#);⁴

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. *Encourages* stronger coordination, coherence and cooperation of the Security Council and the General Assembly with the Peacebuilding Commission, and invites 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

⁴ [A/78/307](#).

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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as appropriate;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, a timely, results-based 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 full, equal and meaningful participation of women, as well as the full, effective and meaningful participation of youth;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the aforementioned report information on the impact of the reforms at Headquarters on the delivery of relevant special political mission mandates in the field;

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

*45th plenary meeting
7 December 2023*