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Chair: Ms. Bird (Australia)
*Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Sene

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 136: Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (continued)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General (A/73/352/Add.1 and A/73/498/Add.1)

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms (A/73/352/Add.2, A/73/352/Add.2/Corr.1 and A/73/498/Add.2)

Revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall policy making, direction and coordination (A/73/424 and A/73/579)

Report on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (A/73/379, A/73/379/Corr.1 and A/73/580)

1. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Acting Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the proposed resource requirements for 2019 for special political missions under thematic cluster I (A/73/352/Add.1), said that the missions grouped under that thematic cluster were global instruments through which the Organization pursued and sustained negotiated political settlements. The proposed resources for 2019 amounted to \$55.9 million, representing an increase of \$6.6 million compared with the approved resources for 2018. That difference was primarily attributable to increases in staff costs, as a result of lower than budgeted vacancy rates and higher civilian personnel costs.

2. Following an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2018/955) and the Security Council (S/2018/979), it had been agreed that the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan would be renamed the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa. The new Office would subsume the functions and resources of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan.

3. Introducing the Secretary-General's report on the proposed resource requirements for 2019 for special

political missions under thematic cluster II (A/73/352/Add.2 and A/73/352/Add.2/Corr.1), he said that the proposed resources for 2019 for the 14 missions under cluster II amounted to \$37.9 million, representing an increase of \$2.4 million compared with the approved resources for 2018. That difference was primarily attributable to higher staff costs, as a result of lower than budgeted vacancy rates, an increase in the average fees for experts, and the official travel of close protection officers escorting the experts, in accordance with the security risk assessment recommendations of the Department of Safety and Security.

4. By its resolution 2444 (2018), the Security Council had decided to terminate the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, with effect from 16 December 2018, and to establish a Panel of Experts on Somalia. Accordingly, the related resource requirements of \$2.3 million for the Monitoring Group would not be required. The resource requirements for 2019 for the newly established Panel of Experts on Somalia would be presented to the Committee at the first part of the resumed session. The report did not include the resource requirements for 2019 for the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (UNITAD), which were the subject of a separate report of the Secretary-General (A/73/352/Add.6).

5. Taking into account the estimated combined overexpenditure of \$3.4 million for 2018 for the 25 special political missions under clusters I and II, and excluding the requirements for UNITAD and the resources originally proposed for the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, the General Assembly was requested to approve net additional requirements for those missions in the amount of \$95 million.

6. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination (A/73/424), he said that the General Assembly was requested to appropriate a grant of \$13,571,800 under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, in accordance with paragraph 10 (b) of General Assembly resolution 72/279. By that resolution, the Assembly had decided that the reinvigorated resident coordinator system would be funded, on an annual basis starting in 2019, through a 1 per cent levy on tightly earmarked third-party contributions; voluntary, predictable, multi-year contributions to a dedicated trust fund; and the doubling of the current United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement among United Nations development system entities.

7. The cost of reinvigorating the resident coordinator system in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would be \$281 million for 2019. That was below the initial estimate of \$290 million shared with Member States during the intergovernmental negotiations leading up to resolution [72/279](#) and reflected a significant effort to identify the most effective and efficient working arrangements for the new resident coordinator system.

8. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement would contribute \$77.5 million of the 2019 costs of the resident coordinator system. The share of the cost-sharing arrangement for the United Nations Secretariat would amount to \$13,571,800. The governing bodies of several United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies had already approved and, in some cases, disbursed their respective contributions, which had facilitated initial preparations for the new system, including ensuring continuity in the support provided to 165 countries and territories.

9. The General Assembly's decision to integrate the resident coordinator system into the Secretariat was intended to improve oversight, transparency and accountability to Member States. Accordingly, an appropriation from the regular budget to the resident coordinator system would increase the system's significance and impact. Indeed, the viability and credibility of the reform depended on it.

10. In line with the commitment by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General to ensure full transparency about the activities, structure, results and funding of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, the report included annexes on the budget and structure of the system, the first time that such detailed information on resource allocation at the global, regional and country levels had been compiled and shared. In addition, the Secretariat had designed a results framework and reporting systems that reflected the higher expectations for the resident coordinator system and the significantly increased accountability for results achieved.

11. In the future, the Economic and Social Council would play a greater role in ensuring transparency and oversight by Member States of the resident coordinator system. In its resolution [72/279](#), the General Assembly requested the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to present a comprehensive report on an annual basis, including on the operational, administrative and financing aspects of the activities of the Development Operations Coordination Office, to the Council at its operational activities for development

segment. The Council would act as a unified mechanism for intergovernmental oversight of the system and ensure transparency and accountability, including with regard to the full budget of the system.

12. The Member States had decided to create a dedicated, reinvigorated and independent coordination function with a view to placing sustainable development at the heart of the Organization's efforts. The General Assembly had agreed to the funding modalities to sustain the new resident coordinator system. The end goal of the reform was to create a development system that worked better together and made a greater impact, with a view to helping Governments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Assembly was requested to approve an additional appropriation of \$13,571,800, representing a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2018–2019.

13. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ([A/73/379](#) and [A/73/379/Corr.1](#)), he said that the report had been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/262](#), by which the Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$2.3 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for 2018. The report addressed the use of the commitment authority and the modalities for the future support of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals to the Court, and contained a request for a subvention to enable the Court to continue to carry out its mandate in 2019.

14. Despite the intensified fundraising efforts of the Secretary-General, the Government of Sierra Leone, the members of the Oversight Committee and the principal officials of the Court, it had not received sufficient voluntary contributions for its operations, and there were at present no prospects for additional voluntary contributions. Given the lack of adequate and sustained voluntary contributions for the Court to fulfil its mandate, the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to approve a subvention in the amount of \$2,984,600 for 2019 to fund the Court's activities.

15. **Mr. Sene** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements for 2019 for special political missions under thematic cluster I ([A/73/498/Add.1](#)), said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposed staffing changes, including an interim arrangement whereby the costs related to six positions

at the Kuwait Joint Support Office would be carried by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/248 A](#), any changes to the existing and future service delivery model must be approved by the Assembly.

16. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to complete promptly the recruitment process for 15 temporary posts that were currently encumbered with the use of a special post allowance. With regard to official travel, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction in the proposed requirements under official travel for 8 of the 11 missions under cluster I, based on past underexpenditure and the low compliance rate with the advance booking policy. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee recognized that, depending on the nature of the work involved, the predictability of certain types of trips could vary.

17. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements for 2019 under thematic cluster II ([A/73/498/Add.2](#)), he said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed resource requirements, which amounted to \$35,706,500, an increase of \$196,100, or 0.5 per cent, over the appropriation for 2018. Those resources would be for 13 continuing missions, since the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea would be terminated in December 2018.

18. With respect to the experts serving on panels under cluster II, the Advisory Committee recalled the comments contained in its thirteenth report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 ([A/72/7/Add.12](#)) regarding the asserted correlation between increased years of service from 7 to 10 and the potential for reduced security risks to the experts. It trusted that additional information would be provided to the General Assembly on that subject at the time of its consideration of the proposed budget for 2019 for the special political missions under cluster II. The Advisory Committee also reiterated its recommendation that the Assembly extend to those experts the standard of accommodation that applied to staff members of the Secretariat.

19. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination ([A/73/579](#)), he said that, by its resolution [72/279](#), the General Assembly had decided to create a dedicated, independent, impartial, empowered and sustainable development-focused coordination

function for the United Nations development system by separating the functions of the resident coordinator from those of the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme. The Assembly had also decided to provide sufficient funding for the resident coordinator system on an annual basis starting from 1 January 2019, in part by doubling the current United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement among United Nations development system entities.

20. The Secretary-General had indicated that the costs of the resident coordinator system would be \$281 million for 2019 and that the doubling of the amount contributed through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement would generate \$77.5 million towards those costs. The Secretary-General had requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$13,571,800, representing the Secretariat's share of the cost-sharing arrangement for 2019.

21. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund, for the biennium 2018–2019, as a grant to the special purpose trust fund in 2019, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget. The Advisory Committee's report also contained comments on the proposed establishment of posts for the resident coordinator system and the review of the overall resources for the system.

22. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ([A/73/580](#)), he said that the Secretary-General sought a subvention of \$3 million, representing the entire budget of the Residual Special Court for 2019, in the light of the low level of voluntary contributions received in 2018 and the minimal prospects for additional contributions in 2019. The Advisory Committee continued to be concerned about the persistent funding shortages faced by the Court and emphasized the need for intensified fundraising efforts.

23. After four consecutive requests for subventions to support the Court, the practice of relying on the regular budget was no longer exceptional. The Advisory Committee was of the view that a decision to appropriate the entire amount of the Court's budget would undermine the voluntary nature of the current funding arrangements. Nevertheless, given the projected funding shortfall and the need to ensure the continuity of the Court's operations, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly authorize the

Secretary-General to enter into commitments, as a bridging financing mechanism, in an amount not to exceed \$2.5 million for 2019, to supplement any voluntary financial resources. It also recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to return any unused balance of commitment authority funds and to report on the use of the subvention at the main part of its seventy-fourth session.

24. **Mr. Ahmed** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group fully supported the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme. The resident coordinator system had played a vital role in the operationalization of country-level development plans and the achievement of national development priorities, and was of critical importance to the development pillar of the United Nations. The Group underlined the need to enhance transparency, leadership and accountability to Member States in the implementation of a reinvigorated resident coordinator system that was able to meet the ambition of the 2030 Agenda.

25. Mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies should receive adequate funding. Resident coordinators must be provided with adequate and predictable funding to ensure the delivery of coherent, effective and accountable responses to development needs. The Development Operations Coordination Office, which would assume the managerial and oversight functions of the resident coordinator system, would be managed financially through a special purpose trust fund that would pool the three funding sources provided for by resolution [72/279](#).

26. The Secretariat's share of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement for 2019 reportedly amounted to \$13.6 million. The Group of 77 would examine the assessed resource requirements requested by the Secretary General. With regard to post-related resource requirements, the Group underscored the importance of respecting the principles of geographical balance and gender parity in the recruitment process. Further to the General Assembly's decision to double the current United Nations Sustainable Development Group cost-sharing arrangement, the Group of 77 looked forward to receiving a comprehensive report from the Secretary-General on the implementation of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, including the funding arrangements.

27. Turning to the use of the commitment authority and the request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, he said that the Group strongly

supported the work of the Residual Special Court. Since the start of its operations in 2014, the Court had performed essential residual functions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including supporting witness protection, providing assistance to national prosecuting authorities, supervising the enforcement of sentences, and preserving and managing archives. In addition, the Residual Special Court conducted ad hoc proceedings from time to time and had the power to prosecute the remaining fugitive or refer his case to a competent national jurisdiction.

28. The Court must be provided with adequate resources. Despite concerted fundraising efforts, since 2015 it had not received sufficient voluntary contributions for its operations. Moreover, there were no prospects for predictable and reliable voluntary contributions in the future. The current situation posed a serious challenge to the sustainability of the Court and threatened the effective implementation of its mandate. While the Group supported the approval of the subvention requested by the Secretary-General, that was only a temporary measure. A sustainable long-term financing solution must be identified. The Group's preferred option was to finance the Court through assessed contributions from Member States.

29. **Ms. Nalwanga** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group attached great importance to the role played by special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives in the Organization's efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, sustain peace, and promote reconciliation, economic reconstruction and development. Special political missions operated in extremely difficult environments and had to contend with such challenges as conflict escalation, arms proliferation, the mass displacement of civilians and post-conflict reconstruction.

30. Special political missions must be provided with adequate resources to enable them to discharge their mandates effectively. The resources proposed for 2019 for cluster I amounted to \$55,900,900, an increase of \$6,606,400, or 13.4 per cent, while the proposed resource requirements for cluster II amounted to \$35,706,500, an increase of \$196,100, or 0.5 per cent. The Group would seek to ensure that adequate funding was allocated to the Secretary-General's proposals.

31. The Group would seek clarification regarding the operational requirements of the missions, in particular those located in Africa; the cost-sharing arrangements with respect to transport, facilities and medical services; and the application of best practices in the use of renewable energy for power generation. With regard to

air travel, the complex challenges faced by special political missions and rapidly changing realities on the ground might prevent missions from being able to comply with the advance booking policy. In addition, the standard of accommodation for air travel of staff members might need to be extended to some categories of experts.

32. The Group noted with interest the Advisory Committee's comments regarding the asserted correlation between increased years of service from 7 to 10 and the potential for reduced security risks to the experts of the panels, and would seek further information in that regard. She would be interested to know the geographical status of the experts, given that over 60 per cent of conflict-related resources were allocated to missions in Africa. The overuse of temporary job openings was one of the main factors preventing stronger workforce planning in the Organization. The Group would examine how the granting of special post allowances had been applied in the past and the issues in the recruitment process that had led to requests for the continuation of vacant posts.

33. The Group took note of the collaboration among the special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives, in particular those based in Africa, and their cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. Multiple United Nations entities were involved in addressing conflict prevention and mediation in the region and the Secretary-General should continue to consolidate the Organization's efforts with a view to promoting synergies and efficiencies. It was important to utilize the knowledge and expertise of regional and subregional organizations, which enjoyed a comparative advantage in the area of conflict resolution. In addition, the Organization should use existing in-house capacity, rather than resorting to the use of consultants.

34. Turning to the use of the commitment authority and the request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court, she paid tribute to the memory of Sir Desmond de Silva, the former Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

35. In the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the establishment of a Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Parties had agreed that the Court should be funded through voluntary contributions from the international community. However, that funding arrangement posed serious challenges to the continued sustainability of the Court and threatened the effective implementation of its mandate. Despite intensive fundraising efforts, the Court had not received sufficient voluntary

contributions for its operations, which underscored the unpredictability and unreliability of the current funding arrangement.

36. The preservation of the legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone was an important element of the work of the Residual Special Court. The residual functions it carried out included supervising the enforcement of sentences; reviewing convictions and acquittals; conducting contempt of court proceedings or referring them to national jurisdictions; providing witness and victim protection and support; and maintaining, preserving and managing the archives of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Compilation and final review of a comprehensive archive index were expected to be completed by March 2019.

37. Failure to identify a sustainable funding mechanism would undermine the Residual Special Court and prevent it from carrying out its mandate. Given the high profile of some of the individuals convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including a former Head of State, and serving prison sentences under the supervision of the Residual Special Court, it was in the best interests of international peace and security in general, and the West African subregion in particular, to ensure that the Residual Special Court had a sustainable long-term means of financing, such as assessed contributions from Member States. The Group was committed to working with all States to achieve that mutually beneficial goal. In the light of the dire financial situation of the Residual Special Court, the Group supported the approval of a subvention in the amount of \$2,984,600 for 2019.

38. **Ms. Baumann** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that Liechtenstein and Switzerland fully endorsed the Secretary-General's vision for reforming the United Nations development system. The reform process was a historic opportunity to move towards a more integrated, accountable and impartial working model that could better support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

39. In its resolution [72/279](#), the General Assembly had endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the repositioning of the United Nations development system around a reinvigorated and independent resident coordinator system with its own funding arrangements. The two delegations for which she spoke strongly supported the appropriation of \$13.6 million as a grant to the special purpose trust fund in 2019, under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget.

40. Accountability towards Member States was extremely important. She commended the Secretary-

General's efforts to strengthen accountability, including by reporting annually to the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General must, in addition, provide full transparency to all stakeholders on expenditures and the total cost of operations, as well as the results achieved. Member States and partners must be able to access transparent, real-time information on the dedicated website. Liechtenstein and Switzerland looked forward to having the opportunity to review the new resident coordinator system, including the funding arrangements, before the end of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

41. **Ms. De Armas Bonchang** (Cuba) said that the funding of special political missions under the regular budget was unsustainable, especially at a time of growing austerity for the United Nations. The majority of such missions had been established by decisions of the Security Council. Given the Council's particular responsibilities, and its ability to establish mandates for peacekeeping operations and special political missions, it was logical that special political missions should be funded in the same way as peacekeeping operations, using the applicable scale of assessments. It was alarming that the resources assigned to special political missions amounted to more than 20 per cent of the regular budget. That situation reflected an imbalance in the allocation of resources to the priorities established by the General Assembly.

42. With regard to cluster I missions, while Cuba fully supported the functions of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, which reflected its firm condemnation of that crime, it was opposed to the proposal of the Secretary-General to include in the estimates for special political missions activities and outputs relating to the responsibility to protect. There was no General Assembly resolution establishing the position of Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect. Rather, as the report of the Secretary-General had indicated, the Secretary-General had stated his intention to create the position in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2007/721](#)); that mere exchange of letters had led to the establishment of a position financed from the regular budget, representing a departure from the letter and spirit of paragraphs 138 and 139 of General Assembly resolution [60/1](#). There was no legal basis for carrying out activities and identifying outputs related to the responsibility to protect, as the Assembly, in its resolution [63/308](#), had decided to continue considering the concept. Indeed, the concept had not been reviewed in intergovernmental forums, and no definition had been approved by the General Assembly.

43. As in the past, the presentation of the estimates made it impossible to distinguish clearly and transparently between the resources devoted to the activities and outputs associated with the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect and those devoted to the activities and outputs associated with the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. The same applied to the narrative description of the Special Advisers' functions. Such ambiguity made it difficult for Member States to ascertain whether the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide was fulfilling his mandates or pursuing objectives which did not have the full approval of the Member States. At a time of repeated calls for greater transparency in the action of the Organization, it was impossible to understand why that situation was continuing.

44. The principle of the responsibility to protect was a source of concern for many countries, particularly small and developing countries, owing to the lack of consensus surrounding it, and the absence of a definition of its constituent parts. The fact that the General Assembly, on 21 September 2018, had voted on the matter of whether or not the principle should be included in the agenda for the current session had confirmed that lack of consensus. Moreover, the concept of the responsibility to protect could be easily manipulated for political purposes, as demonstrated by its use throughout history to undermine the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, placing at risk State sovereignty and the fundamental responsibility of States to ensure the well-being of their citizens. In the light of its position, her delegation would take part in the debate on the matter, and would put forward specific amendments to the Secretary-General's proposals.

45. **Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the desired political solution and the success of the mission of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and related initiatives required concerted international efforts to combat terrorism in Syria, the region and the world. In addition, a clear position must be taken against the Governments of certain States of the region that backed armed terrorist groups operating in Syria. Furthermore, the Governments of certain Western permanent members of the Security Council must stop their destructive practices and politicized initiatives intended to hamper or halt the mission of the Special Envoy.

46. Terms such as "armed opposition" were repeatedly used in the Secretary-General's report ([A/73/352/Add.1](#)) instead of the legal term "armed terrorist groups" used by the Security Council, an error that should be officially corrected. His delegation

objected to the inclusion of references to the League of Arab States, not only out of concern over the suspicious role played by the League, at the instigation of certain States, during the early days of the crisis in Syria, but also because the Special Envoy was an official of the United Nations with no link to the League and the post was no longer one of Joint Special Envoy or Joint Special Representative. His delegation also took the view that the existence of an office of the Special Envoy in Amman, Beirut, Kuwait or any other place connected with the crisis in Syria was a waste of the Organization's budget and was incompatible with the mandates deriving from the pertinent United Nations resolutions.

47. His delegation welcomed the inclusion in the Secretary-General's report – in connection with the implementation of Security Council resolutions [2254 \(2015\)](#) and [2268 \(2016\)](#) – of a reference to the need to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed by ISIL and the Nusra Front, which were included in the list of terrorist organizations compiled by the Security Council. However, it wished to express its reservations about the reference in the Secretary-General's report to close contact between the Office of the Special Envoy and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as nothing justified such contacts. His delegation reiterated its wish to see the mission of the Special Envoy succeed, and it welcomed his role simply as a facilitator in accordance with the mandate assigned to him and in line with the Charter and principles of the United Nations and their requirement for neutrality and moral probity.

48. **Mr. Kai-Kai** (Sierra Leone), speaking on the matter of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, recalled that the mandate of the Court included judicial and non-judicial functions, some of which – including reviews of convictions or acquittals – were performed intermittently, and others of which – including the provision of protection and support for witnesses and victims; the supervision of enforcement of sentences; the maintenance, preservation and management of archives; and responding to requests for access to evidence by national prosecution authorities and to requests by national authorities with respect to claims for compensation – were performed continuously. In order to fulfil those important functions effectively, the Court needed appropriate resources. In that connection, the Government of Sierra Leone, the Oversight Committee and other stakeholders had intensified fundraising and diplomatic activities in 2018, and the Secretary-General had written to all the Member States to appeal for financial support to the

Court. Despite those concerted efforts, the Court would not have sufficient funds from voluntary contributions to cover its operations in 2019. Using voluntary contributions as the Court's funding mechanism had proven unreliable and unpredictable.

49. Because of its landmark judicial decisions, the Court had served as a model and inspiration for other international judicial institutions, and it was impossible to understate its contribution to the rule of law and to addressing impunity. To maintain the Court's legacy and accomplishments, robust mechanisms should be put in place to secure a sustainable means of funding for its operations, while also taking care to maintain its identity and independent legal character. While his delegation would continue to work with the Member States and other major stakeholders towards that goal, it was entreating the Committee in the interim to give favourable consideration to, and approve the full amount of, the subvention requested by the Secretary-General, in view of the Court's current financial constraints. That would enable the Court to continue to fulfil its essential mandate in 2019. Although in Sierra Leone the guns had fallen silent and news reports of atrocities no longer appeared, the long and critical process of ensuring international criminal accountability continued.

50. **Mr. Gohar** (Pakistan), speaking on the matter of revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system, said that the Charter of the United Nations provided a moral compass to promote peace, development, social justice and the economic wellbeing of all peoples. The adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [72/279](#), establishing a repositioned United Nations development system with independent, impartial, empowered and sustainable-development-focused coordination from resident coordinators around the globe, had constituted a landmark.

51. The repositioning of the United Nations development system was the most comprehensive effort in many decades to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to support Member States in pursuit of 2030 Agenda. On those grounds, Pakistan had lent its support to the repositioning process, and wished to highlight a number of principles in connection with its financing. First, poverty eradication should remain the overarching goal under the new system, and the nexus between peace and security, humanitarian affairs and development should be shaped with care, on the basis of Member States' priorities, needs and laws. Second, in the light of its aim of supporting the 2030 Agenda, the reform of the United Nations development system required a lasting commitment, particularly from traditional donors, to supplying adequate, predictable and sustainable

financing. Third, the system must remain based on the coordinating role of the resident coordinators, and on transparency and accountability to Member State Governments. Fourth, the desired results would be promoted by attention to equitable geographical distribution and gender parity in all appointments. Fifth, as the reform proceeded, the role of the intergovernmental bodies remained key, to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

52. **Mr. Wen Dong** (China) said that the share of the Organization's regular budget taken up by special political missions had continued to increase over previous years, from 21 per cent in 2014–2015, to 24 per cent in 2018–2019. First, given that the plans to pilot annual budgeting were advancing, and that special political missions and their mandates were also evolving, his delegation believed that the process of formulating the budget for those missions must be made more scientific and more accurate. That would also serve the need to ensure that mandates were implemented and that the use of budget resources was continuously made more effective and efficient. Second, the financing of special political missions should place greater emphasis on comprehensive performance management, with the Secretariat examining the missions' mandates and updating the relevant performance indicators, exercising more rigorous budget control, strengthening supervision and accountability and adopting a results-oriented approach in order to account for the resources spent and ensure accountability for any lack of effectiveness or efficiency. Third, his delegation highlighted the need to take account during informal consultations of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee regarding the budgets of special political missions, particularly with regard to operational costs and special post adjustment.

53. **Mr. Gao Huijun** (China) said that the resident coordinator system required predictable and sustained resources and recalled that, as the hybrid funding arrangements for that system had budgetary implications, it should be subject to the Committee's approval, in strict compliance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. His delegation wished to highlight the observation of the Advisory Committee regarding the absence of a unified mechanism for intergovernmental consideration of all aspects of the cost-sharing arrangement, including the global budget of the resident coordinator system, and looked forward to further discussion of that matter in informal consultations. His delegation hoped that the Secretariat would strengthen performance evaluation of the resource input for the resident coordinator system,

develop innovative performance indicators, enhance oversight and accountability, and strengthen financial and budgetary discipline. The resident coordinator system should not be in competition for budgetary resources with existing development-related entities in the Secretariat. China believed that the Member States had the right to hold the resident coordinator system accountable, and it trusted that the work of the Secretariat in that area would remain transparent. Recruitment to posts should fully reflect the principle of equitable geographical representation. The number of staff from underrepresented developing countries should be increased.

54. **Ms. Danganan-Acuzena** (Philippines) said that the reinvigorated resident coordinator system should be supported by a realistic funding mechanism. It must be more stable, robust, predictable and sustainable, address the decline in core contributions, and provide assurances to programme countries that no additional burden would be placed on them. Funding should also be aligned with those countries' national development priorities and strategies, with a view to reflecting national ownership of their development. However, her delegation acknowledged that programme countries must also carry their fair share of the burden for the successful implementation of the system.

55. Her delegation had noted the Advisory Committee's observation that there was no unified mechanism for intergovernmental consideration of all aspects of the cost-sharing arrangement, and that it saw merit in such a unified mechanism, to provide intergovernmental oversight of the global budget process, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#). In that connection, her delegation would like information on the specific benefits expected from such a mechanism, apart from the possibility of conducting an independent and objective performance evaluation.

56. The Philippines appreciated the importance of achieving the expected efficiency gains from common business operations, common premises and a merging of information centres with resident coordinator offices, as envisioned in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/424](#)), in order to redeploy those savings for development activities. Her delegation supported the Advisory Committee's call for the next report of the Secretary General on the resident coordinator system to provide an update on the efficiency gains achieved, and would like to hear more about ways to streamline staffing patterns and the levels of certain positions which might be redundant and could further boost such gains. The reform of the United Nations development system was a priority for the entire United Nations

system and the resident coordinator system, as an integral part of that reform, must have strengthened transparency, accountability and funding in order to guarantee smooth and effective operation from the beginning of 2019.

57. **Mr. Velázquez Castillo** (Mexico) said that Mexico supported the intention of the Secretary-General to reposition the United Nations development system in order to support Member States' implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with an emphasis on coherence and reliability, and efforts to exploit the specialized know-how of the various entities involved in development. Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution [72/279](#), had established clear arrangements for cost-sharing, he expressed the hope that the additional appropriation requested, representing the Secretariat's \$13.6-million share, would be approved, given that all the Member States had played an active part in determining those financial arrangements.

58. **Mr. Kalugin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation believed that there had been a violation of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly when resolution [72/279](#) had been adopted, given that, when decisions with budgetary implications were taken, draft proposals must be considered by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee. His delegation looked forward to consideration of the issue in informal consultations, to which it would make a constructive contribution.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.