

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Agenda item 133
Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013
Second Performance Report
(A/68/628)

Agenda item 134

Estimates reflect a net increase of **\$173.2 million**. This amount includes increased requirements under the expenditure section in connection with post related deferred recosting as well as unforeseen and extraordinary expenses incurred in accordance with resolution 66/249 and authorized commitment authorities for the subvention to the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the remediation work in the aftermath of storm Sandy. The increased requirements are partially offset by decreased requirements under non-post resources under the expenditure sections and increased income.

In section X, paragraph 8, of its resolution 67/246, the General Assembly *authorized* the Secretary-General, starting 1 January 2013, to utilize forward purchasing to protect the United Nations against exchange rate fluctuations. Accordingly, information on the experience with forward purchasing and the related practices is contained in part B of section II of the present report.

Special Political Missions

The next report before you is A/68/327 and its 6 addenda containing the 2014 budget proposals for 34 special political missions.

The Budget proposals for two other missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the Joint Mission of the OPCW and the UN for the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, will be presented separately.

Two of the 34 missions, namely, the Office for SRSG for the Sahel, and the Office of the SRSG for the Great Lakes region are new missions created during the latter part of 2012 and in 2013, and were therefore not part of the proposed envelope provision for SPMs for the biennium 2014-2015. The same applies to the Office of Joint Special Representative for Syria for which, at the time of proposing the envelope, the initial assumption made was that this mission would not continue as an SPM into the 2014-2015 biennium.

The budget proposals for special political missions for 2014 are grouped into three thematic clusters, and are presented in the same manner as in the past years.

In line with the request of the Advisory Committee, efforts have been made to provide additional information on (i) resources for air operation; (ii) vacancy rates comparison, (iii) ratios on vehicles and IT equipment; (iv) factors for variances in civilian personnel requirements, as well as (v) mission-by-mission resources for experts, consultants and travel.

The total requirements of the 34 missions for 2014 amount to \$540.8 million (net of staff assessment). This amount includes \$520.3 million for the 31 continuing missions, which were reflected in the proposed SPM envelope and \$20.5 million for the three missions that were not included in the proposed envelope.

It is proposed that these requirements be charged against the \$1.081 billion provision for special political missions, includ