

**Statement of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on
Administrative and budgetary Questions**

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions

(ACABQ report: A/66/7/Add.20; Report of the Secretary-General: A/66/586)

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1

(ACABQ report: A/66/7/Add.15; Report of the Secretary-General: A/C.5/66/10)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.29/Rev.1

(ACABQ report: A/66/7/Add.17; Report of the Secretary-General: A/C.5/66/11)

Oceans and the law of the sea

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/66/L.21

(ACABQ report: A/66/7/Add.14; Report of the Secretary-General: A/C.5/66/12)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce four reports of the Advisory Committee in relation to (a) the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council, and (b) three programme budget implications on draft resolutions on situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and oceans and the law of the sea.

Regarding the revised estimates arising from the 63 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions and its fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth special sessions, the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of \$886,200 in the additional requirements of \$13,261,800 proposed for the biennium 2012-2013. For the biennium 2010-2011, additional requirements amount to \$10,573,700, which the Secretary-General proposes to accommodate from within the existing appropriation, as reported in the second performance report for 2010-2011.

In addition to a total of 6 posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS) proposed for the biennium 2012-2013, the Secretary-General also proposes a number of positions to be

funded under General Temporary Assistance (GTA) in the amount of \$3,720,000. A list of all the proposed GTA positions, with their levels, duration of service and functions, as provided to the Advisory Committee, is attached in annex I to the Committee's report. The Advisory Committee does not recommend approval of the proposed 2 P-3 posts and 3 GTA positions as explained in paragraphs 4 and 5, 8 and 10 of its report.

With regard to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Advisory Committee notes that the estimated cost of continuing the Secretary-General's good offices for one year through his Special Adviser would amount to \$1,200,500. The Committee also notes that the function has been undertaken by an acting Special Adviser since 1 January 2010 and that the appointment of a new Special Adviser was expected by the end of 2011.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the support provided by the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Myanmar in the implementation of his good offices mandate and encourages the Office of the Special Adviser to take full advantage of opportunities for holding meetings in New York in order to reduce travel costs.

The Committee further notes that the proposed requirements, which would be charged against the provision for special political missions under section 3, Political Affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, have already been submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

With respect to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.29/Rev.1 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, the additional requirements of \$2,993,200 would provide for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for an additional week of meeting time per year. The Advisory Committee notes that, according to the Secretary-General, these unforeseen additional requirements are not included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.29/Rev.1, additional resource requirements in the total amount of \$2,993,200 would be required for the biennium 2012-2013 and would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

On the status of the backlog of reports from States Parties to the Convention pending review by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Advisory Committee was informed that only 2 of the 24 reports received to date had been examined, and that at the current pace of considering one report in a one-week session, it would take 11 years to review the 22 reports. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, with the proposed additional week of meeting time, the duration required to review the 22 pending reports would be reduced from 11 to 5 years and a half.

Turning now to the programme budget implications of draft resolution, A/66/L.21, on oceans and law of the sea, the Committee notes that the new arrangements set out at the twenty-first meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea would significantly increase the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the

Continental Shelf in terms of the number of its working weeks and also change its working methods thus resulting in an increase in the number of submissions under active consideration at the same time. The Secretary-General states that, as a result, three new posts are required in the Office of Legal Affairs in order to ensure enhanced support and assistance to the Commission. The Secretary-General also states that the estimated cost of the additional staffing required pursuant to draft resolution A/66/L.21 would amount to \$815,800.

Given increase in the number of working weeks of the Commission, and, by extension, the increase in the workload of the Office of Legal Affairs to service it effectively, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the additional three posts being proposed. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/66/L.21, additional resources in the amount of \$815,800 would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

Thank you.

