

**Revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 30, Office of Information and Communications Technology, related to the organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework**

**Statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Fifth Committee**

*(ACABQ report A/66/7/Add.10)*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the organizational resilience management system (ORMS), which is contained in document A/66/7/Add.10. The report describes the establishment of the ORMS policy, the roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved, and the development of a pilot system focused on Headquarters. It also contains the Committee's comments and recommendations on the resource requests put forward by the Secretary-General.

As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report, the aim of the proposed new system is to institutionalize a comprehensive framework under which separate emergency preparedness initiatives led by individual departments can be coordinated and integrated, taking into account their linkages and mutual dependencies. In the Advisory Committee's view, however, the Secretary-General's report does not respond fully to the request for a comprehensive emergency management framework contained in General Assembly resolution 64/260. The Committee considers that the organizational resilience management system proposed by the Secretary-General cannot be regarded as comprehensive because the full scope of its application has not yet been determined and the full quantum of resources required for its operation is not yet known. The Advisory Committee recognizes the difficulty of bringing a series of discrete initiatives, developed and implemented by different departments and offices and funded from various sources, into one cohesive whole. Nevertheless, it is of the opinion that greater efforts should have been made to map out the final shape and size of the organizational resilience management system, even if some of its elements are not yet ready for full implementation.

In its report, the Advisory Committee highlights two main elements of the ORMS that require further development. Firstly, the Emergency Preparedness and Support Team (EPST). The Secretary-General indicates that he intends to come forward with a resource proposal for the EPST in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, following a review of its performance and a needs assessment. While the Committee recognizes the need to conduct an assessment before requesting further resources for the EPST, it had expected that the assessment would have been completed in time to submit the related resource request, if any, to the General Assembly at its current session. So as to provide the Assembly with a complete picture of the scope of the ORMS at the earliest possible opportunity, the Committee is recommending that information on the outcome of the needs assessment be included in the follow-up report on the emergency management framework that is to be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. Any related resource requirements should then be submitted for consideration in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

The second element of the system that should be further fleshed out is the question of its system-wide application. From the information provided to it during its consideration of the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee notes the efforts made thus far to establish inter-agency cooperation mechanisms relating, in particular, to business continuity management and emergency preparedness. The Committee regrets, however, that the Secretary-General did not explore the system-wide application of the ORMS in more depth in his present report. The aforementioned follow-up report should present a full picture of the measures taken and envisaged to extend the scope of the system to cover the agencies, funds and programmes, including any financial and administrative implications.

Turning now to the resources requested by the Secretary-General in his report, the Advisory Committee is recommending approval of requirements in the amount of \$3.14 million for the secondary data centre in Piscataway, New Jersey, and for software for the maintenance of emergency plans and the staff accounting system. The Committee notes that those additional requirements are to be considered in accordance with the provisions governing the contingency fund.

In response to the Secretary-General's request for the establishment of posts for business continuity, at this time the Advisory Committee is recommending against the conversion to established posts of three positions in the Business Continuity Management Unit. The Committee is of the view that it is premature to establish dedicated staff capacity for the ORMS before the full scope of the system, including the resource requirements, is known. The Committee is also recommending that the Secretary-General re-submit his proposal for the conversion to established posts of two positions in the Office of the Chief of Staff, DPKO/DFS in the context of the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for 2012/2013, since those positions are currently funded from that account.

The Committee's recommendations on the actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 32 of its report.