

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

**Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel**

**Statement of the Chairman of the ACABQ**

*ACABQ report A/67/604/Add.3*

*Related report of the Secretary-General: A/67/346/Add.8*

The Committee is recommending against approval of 7 of the 19 posts proposed and a commensurate reduction of operational requirements, which would reduce the proposed requirement for 2013 by some \$600,000. The Advisory Committee is of the view that, in general, the proposed staffing and the resources appear high in relation to the activities that can realistically be carried out by the Office. It also considers that some of the functions proposed could be provided through increased collaboration with other United Nations entities present in the region which deal with similar issues.

With regard to the location of the Office of the Special Envoy in Rome, the Advisory Committee questions whether a large share of the staff of the Office needs to be located outside the Sahel region. It is of the view that closer proximity to the region would allow the Office to better engage and coordinate with the numerous United Nations offices/entities and international actors present in the region. Furthermore, co-location with one of the United Nations offices present in the region, such as UNOWA, would allow the Office of the Special Envoy to benefit both from the expertise as well as the infrastructure and support available in that office, reducing thereby requirements for substantive and administrative support, official travel, facilities and other operational costs. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly invite the Secretary-General to review the current arrangements and to consider alternative locations of the Office in the Sahel region.