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**Agenda item 134**  
**Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Progress Report of the Secretary-General on  
the implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems  
security across the Secretariat  
(A/68/552)**

Statement by

Mr. Yukio Takasu  
Under-Secretary-General for Management

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honor to introduce the progress report of the Secretary-General on implementation of recommendations related to strengthening information and systems security across the Secretariat (A/68/552). I am here today with the new Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), ASG Riazi, who joined the Secretariat earlier this year. I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its thorough consideration of this subject and for its report.
2. This report was prepared in accordance with paragraph 18, Part I of General Assembly resolution 67/254. In it, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide an update on the status of implementation of the actions taken to address information security issues in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.
3. As I informed the General Assembly early this year, the Secretary-General took the recommendations by the Board of Auditors on strengthening information security very seriously. We have developed an Action Plan as a matter of priority and have been actively implementing it to address the most

urgent information security shortcomings, as highlighted by the Board of Auditors, within the existing resources.

4. The present report provides an update on the initial steps taken to implement the Action Plan over the last 7 months. Among others, we have taken following steps;

- issued an information security policy directive to all Heads of Departments and Offices,
- strengthened preventive controls and limited administrative privileges,
- acquired additional filtering systems for email and internet traffic,
- introduced additional firewalls with more advanced technology, and
- developed a computer-based training course to raise awareness on information security among all staff across the Secretariat.

5. All of these initiatives were performed in close collaboration with other ICT units across the Secretariat. The Secretariat has also contributed to the collaboration among United Nations system organizations in this regard. The content of the information security awareness training and guidance on minimum security requirements for public web sites are based on common recommendations by the system-wide "Information Security Special Interest Group".

6. The Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) has had to re-prioritize its activities and invest more than \$1.3 million from the approved resources under its Programme Budget for the biennium 2012-2013 to strengthen information security by purchasing filtering, monitoring and intrusion detection tools. The Office has also redeployed staff internally to begin the work. However, these resources have proven insufficient to adequately address all identified weaknesses.

7. In order to establish the information security needs in the Secretariat, we initiated an independent technical assessment in July this year. As a result of the independent assessment and security breaches that occurred through 2013, subsequent to the submission of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 in early this year, and clear evidence of increased threats to the Organization's communication and data, we have come to a conclusion that despite our best efforts, additional measures must be taken urgently to protect ourselves better. Our experiences throughout this year have demonstrated clearly significant shortcomings that expose the Organization to an unacceptable level of risk. Given both its sensitive and confidential nature, the CITO will provide you with an oral briefing on those shortcomings during the informal consultations.

8. We need to develop comprehensive information security measures and the institutional and financial arrangements for their efficient deployment and continued operation, in context of the overall review of the ICT strategy and operation. The outcome of the review will be submitted for consideration by the General Assembly during its 69th session. The proposed actions, for which we request the additional resources in the present report, are interim measures which need to be implemented expeditiously, before the General Assembly will have an opportunity to consider the revised ICT Strategy in the fall of 2014.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates,

9. On the basis of these findings and understanding, we request the General Assembly to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3,440,700 for the twelve months period in the biennium 2014-2015. This will allow expanding the coverage of intrusive detection service, upgrade of firewall infrastructure and filtering solutions for internet traffic to duty stations beyond Headquarters, as well as additional security measures.

10. In conclusion, I would like to assure you that under the leadership of the CITO, we will continue to build on operational strengths and are fully committed to protecting the Organization against any threat of cyber-attack.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Statement by

María Eugenia Casar  
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller  
10 December 2013

**Limited Budgetary Discretion (A/68/490)**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the limited budgetary discretion (A/68/490) which responds to the request to report during the sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the limited discretion, including clarification of the criteria for determining which activities should be funded through limited budgetary discretion, and provide further justifications on the proposed modifications to the modality as per section I, paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/258.
2. The Committee will recall that in accordance with section III, paragraph 6, of its resolution 60/283, the General Assembly decided to authorize the Secretary-General, on an experimental basis, a limited discretion for budgetary implementation for the biennia 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, to enter into commitments up to \$20 million in each biennium for positions and non-post requirements for the purpose of meeting the evolving needs of the Organization in attaining its mandated programmes and activities. The discretion is limited to a total amount of \$6 million per biennium under the authority of the Secretary-General; any amounts in excess of that level require submission to and approval by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The General Assembly extended these arrangements for the biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013.
3. On the basis of an analysis of the experience gained during the last three biennia, the Secretary-General has concluded that there is value in the limited budgetary discretion mechanism. Experience has shown that the advantage of limited budgetary discretion in comparison to other mechanisms is the speed with which the evolving needs of the Organization, for which resources are not otherwise available, can be addressed.

4. Although no recourse was made to the discretionary authority in 2012-2013, the Secretary-General still sees merit in continuing the discretionary authority, and therefore proposes **no changes to the limited budgetary discretionary mechanism under the terms of section III, of General Assembly resolution 60/283**. The Secretary-General will continue to assess the implementation of the discretionary authority mechanism during the biennium 2014-2015, which will allow for further refinement and justification of any proposed changes to the parameters in future reports.

5. **The action requested of the General Assembly is presented in Part VI of the document A/68/490.**

**Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290, entitled “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development” (A/68/365 and A/68/365/Add.1)**

1. The report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 (A/68/365) entitled “Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development” estimated that an additional resource requirements of \$741,800, would be required under Section 9, Economic and social affairs of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

2. However, subsequent to the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General A/68/365, the General Assembly, on 20 September 2013, adopted resolution 68/1 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of ECOSOC” in which paragraph 16 of the annex of the resolution, states that “the Economic and Social Council shall hold the regular meetings of its substantive sessions in New York and the humanitarian affairs segment shall continue to alternate between New York and Geneva. On an ad hoc and cost effective basis, another United Nations location could be decided upon if that would contribute to a better discussion on the chosen main theme.” In this regard, the resource requirements as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/365) have been revised and are contained in the addendum to the report (A/68/365/Add.1)

3. Hence, the additional resource requirements resulting from these decisions are estimated at \$754,600, under Section 9, Economic and social affairs of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and as such, would require additional appropriation of \$754,600 for the biennium 2014-2015.

### **Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (A/68/532)**

1. I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (A/68/532).
2. Since the establishment of the Extraordinary Chambers in 2005, the Secretary-General has issued several progress reports to the General Assembly keeping Member States informed on the Court's progress. The 2012 progress report (A/67/380), which was submitted to the Third Committee, highlighted the acute financial shortfall being faced by the Extraordinary Chambers, and the risk of financial failure. The precarious financial situation has unfortunately not changed since then, prompting the Secretary-General to direct this current report to the Fifth Committee, seeking a subvention which would provide fiscal stability, and allow the international and national components to issue annual staff contracts, as opposed to limited contracts of three months duration, and meet all operational costs.
3. Since the issuance of that report, the Secretary-General held a pledging conference on 7 November 2013, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General with the participation of His Excellency Keo Remy, Secretary of State of the Council of Ministers, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia. A total of \$2.9 million of new contributions was announced for the international component, while no donor contributions were pledged for the national component.
4. The Secretary-General seeks the approval of the General Assembly for funding up to \$51.1 million for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015 to supplement the financial resources of the Extraordinary Chambers to enable them to complete their mandate. In making this recommendation, the Secretary-General proposes that an amount of \$24.8 million be appropriated for 2014 under the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015, and that a subvention of up to \$26.3 million for 2015 be considered at the main part of its 69th session.

5. The Secretary-General also seeks the approval of the General Assembly for the United Nations to use its discretion to provide reimbursable loans to the Royal Government of Cambodia from the subvention of up to \$4.6 million in 2014 and up to \$4.2 million in 2015.

6. I stand ready to provide further information and details, as may be required, during the informal discussions on this report.

### **Statement of Programme budget implications (A/C.5/68/14)**

#### **On draft resolution entitled “Developments in information and telecommunications in the context of international security” (A/C.1/68/L.37)**

1. On 5 November the First Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37 entitled “Developments in information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. The resolution, inter alia calls for the establishment of a Group of Governmental Experts to examine potential threats in the information sphere and cooperative measures to address them. The First Committee was advised on the programme budget implications as contained in document A/C.1/68/L.54.

2. The statement of programme budget implications as contained in A/C.5/68/14, before you, envisages an estimated additional resource requirements of \$1,439,400, for the biennium 2014-2015, including \$654,300 under Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and \$785,100 under section 4, Disarmament in order to implement the activities called for in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and as such, would require additional appropriations of \$1,439,400 for the biennium 2014-2015 to be approved by the General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.