

Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
17 December 2014

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

ACABQ report: A/69/661; Related report: A/69/612

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

The Advisory Committee notes that the revised requirements under the expenditure sections for the biennium 2014-2015 would be set at the level of \$5,573.3 million, reflecting an increase of 0.6 per cent over the appropriation level approved by the General Assembly. Revised estimates for the income sections amount to \$533 million and reflect an increase of 1.7 per cent over the initial estimates for the biennium. Overall, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the revised estimates contained in the report of the Secretary-General, subject to such adjustments as may be necessary resulting from matters still under consideration by the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

Concerning unforeseen and extraordinary expenses incurred under the terms of General Assembly resolution 68/249, the Committee recommends that more detailed background information be submitted to the Assembly concerning those commitments totaling \$6.9 million made under the authority of the Secretary-General during 2014. The Committee also expresses concern that the \$8 million limitation specified under this resolution was, in fact, exceeded by \$905,000, necessitating a reversal of a \$2 million charge for start-up activities at the newly established UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to observe the limits and provisions established by the Assembly in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

On the matter of currency exchange rate movements, the Committee notes that a comprehensive assessment on the experience of the Secretary-general on the utilization of forward purchasing arrangements is now overdue.

Finally, with regard to the income estimates arising from services to the public which have been revised downward consistently over the last three biennia, the Advisory Committee questions the validity of the initial budget assumptions and intends to keep this matter under review.

Thank you