

Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1 December 2014

Information and communications technology in the United Nations

(ACABQ report A/69/610)
(Related report of the Secretary-General: A/69/517)

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee is of the view that the proposed revised ICT strategy constitutes a good basis for the future development of ICT at the United Nations and supports the overall direction of the proposed strategy. It notes that the proposed strategy focusses on supporting the work of the Organization, prioritizing in particular the activities required to support Umoja implementation and mainstreaming. The Committee also notes that the proposed strategy is based on a consultative approach involving all Secretariat ICT units.

The Advisory Committee is of the view that the proposed strategy presents a pragmatic approach for reducing fragmentation of ICT capacities by building on and developing the existing strengths of ICT units across the Secretariat while taking into account the decentralized nature of the United Nations and its complex organizational structures. At the same time, the Committee is of the view that the distribution of responsibility for ICT delivery across multiple geographically dispersed enterprise and regional technology centres will require effective governance, management and accountability arrangements. It highlights in particular the need for strong central leadership to establish and enforce corporate ICT policies and standards, as well as the commitment of senior managers to fully apply the ICT strategy and decisions taken at the central level.

The Advisory Committee also considers that, while the proposed revised ICT strategy presents a set of goals for the future state of ICT, and a high-level plan for transforming the delivery of ICT at the United Nations over the next five years, a more detailed analysis should be carried out. Such an analysis would include, inter alia, a clear identification of the activities to be managed at the central, regional and local levels; proposals for the establishment of enterprise and regional technology centres; information on the final geographic structure envisaged for the delivery of ICT at the United Nations; an implementation plan for the revised ICT strategy; and details on the expected qualitative and quantitative benefits.

Mr Chairman,

The Advisory Committee is recommending that, subject to the comments and recommendations in its report, the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General and request him to submit for consideration at its seventieth session a refined proposal for the ICT strategy of the United Nations.

I thank you.