

**Statement of the Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**2 May 2016**

**Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (UNLB)**

*(ACABQ report A/70/742/Add.9 related reports A/70/609 and A/70/779)*

Mr Chairman,

The Advisory Committee has made observations and recommendations on numerous issues in its report. In the interest of time, I will highlight some of the key recommendations only.

Concerning the comprehensive study requested by the General Assembly on the deployment of the Centre in two locations, based on the information provided, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the study is incomplete. The Committee notes that the study does not cover the organizational, managerial and operational issues associated with deployment of the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies in two locations, nor does it address the financial and human resources management implications of such an arrangement. The Advisory Committee is therefore recommending that the Secretary-General be requested to further develop his analysis to cover all relevant issues and to present a revised comprehensive study in his next budget submission.

In addition, given that SGITT is already deployed in the two locations, the Committee is recommending that, pending further action by the General Assembly on this matter, any decisions taken on the operational needs of the Service (SGITT) are in full compliance with all relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations. The Committee is also recommending against most of the Secretary-General's proposals for redeployment or reassignment of posts between Brindisi and Valencia, in particular those concerning national posts.

Concerning the proposed write off of obsolete items and the request for \$5 million over a two-year period for the replenishment of SDS, the Advisory Committee is recommending that the General Assembly request an audit to clarify this matter and to provide an independent assessment of the SDS review and rotation processes. The Committee considers that prior to any replenishment of the obsolete stocks, the General Assembly should be provided with assurances that requisite procedures, policies and internal controls are in place and implemented in a manner that ensures proper use and rotation of SDS, and avoids risks of such write-offs in the future.

Concerning the consolidation of recurrent Umoja support costs under the 2016/17 UNLB proposed budget, the Advisory Committee notes that Umoja and other enterprise systems such as iNeed are used by all Secretariat entities and stresses that such costs should be shared in a transparent manner across all user entities and funding sources. It trusts that details on a Secretariat-wide cost recovery framework for Umoja and other enterprise systems hosted by the SGITT will be provided in the context of the next progress report on the implementation of the ICT strategy. The Committee also stresses the need to establish a comprehensive performance management framework for the delivery of Secretariat-wide ICT services with clear lines of responsibility and accountability, as well as for measuring the quality of the services provided and the levels of customer satisfaction across all Secretariat entities.

Concerning the Secretary-General's proposals on the Tenant Units, pending clarification on a number of issues discussed in its report on the peacekeeping support account, the Advisory Committee is recommending against relocation of the Integrated Training Service to Entebbe and abolishment of the related 5 posts at UNLB.

Concerning scalability, the Advisory Committee recognizes the differences in the nature of the activities of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and those of UNLB, and notes that any scalability model developed for UNLB must take into account the specificities of its activities, operational environment and many other factors. The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to focus on the development of a scalability model for UNLB that allows adaptation of the level of its own capacities to the expansion and contraction of the overall volume of peacekeeping activity of the United Nations.

Finally, Mr Chairman

The Advisory Committee's recommendations on the Secretary-General's proposals regarding posts and positions, consultants, official travel, acquisition of vehicles and replenishment of SDS would result in an overall reduction of \$2.7 million to the proposed budget of UNLB for the 2016-17 period.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.