

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

13 October 2016

**Ninth progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector
Accounting Standards by the United Nations**

(ACABQ report A/71/542; related report: A/71/226)

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Secretary-General's ninth progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the United Nations (A/71/542).

The Advisory Committee welcomes the reported improvements in United Nations financial accounting and reporting resulting from the implementation of IPSAS and expects that these improvements will lead to greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the management of the Organization's resources.

The Committee takes note of the ongoing implementation of the IPSAS sustainability plan particularly under the pillars of: benefits management; strengthening internal controls; managing the regulatory framework and strengthening Umoja as the backbone for IPSAS-compliant accounting and reporting. In this regard, the Advisory Committee is of the view that future reporting on IPSAS benefits should include some concrete examples supported by quantitative measurements. In addition, the Committee continues to stress that managers have an important role to play in delivering the benefits of IPSAS and implementing the organization-wide internal control framework which is currently under development.

Madam Chairperson,

The Advisory Committee notes the progress made in the development of the Umoja Business Planning and Consolidation Module and the Umoja Asset Accounting process both of which will contribute significantly to the strengthening of Umoja as the backbone for IPSAS compliant accounting and financial reporting. The Committee trusts that the gains in these areas will not be jeopardized by the problems being experienced in the other Umoja processes.

Finally, the Advisory Committee recognizes the need to maintain a supporting structure within the Office of Programme Planning Budget and Accounts (OPPBA) to drive IPSAS sustainability activities beyond December 2017 when the current IPSAS project team will be decommissioned. The Committee will consider the proposed supporting structure and its related resource requirements when it considers the relevant budget proposals of Secretary-General.

Thank you Madam Chairperson