

Report of the Secretary-General: “Update on the proposed regional restructuring of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights”

Fifth Committee

Friday, 16 March 2018

Introductory Remarks by the Controller

Mr. Chair, Distinguished members of the Fifth Committee,

It is my pleasure to introduce the report of the Secretary-General providing an “Information update on the proposed regional restructuring of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights” (A/72/720). This update was submitted under the Secretary-General’s initiative to facilitate the General Assembly’s further consideration of the proposal that had been submitted in report A/71/218 of the Secretary-General, as reviewed by the ACABQ in its report A/71/584.

Since the issuance of the last reports on this proposal, there has been rich discussion with and among Member States about the details, and a number of suggestions and recommendations have been taken on board to address their concerns. These were shared with the Fifth Committee in supplementary information, responding to questions from delegations during the 71st and 72nd main sessions.

Given the various suggested adjustments to the proposal, it was noted by various delegations in the Fifth Committee that a consolidated update to the proposal would assist in their appreciation of the current status of the proposed redistribution of resources, in order to conclude their discussions. Furthermore, as the proposal now pertains to the approved programme budget for 2018-2019, it would be useful to update the financial parameters as well. Thus, the information update in report A/72/720 was presented to provide the opportunity for a fully informed review and consideration by this Committee.

As before in report A/71/218, the proposal is to redistribute existing resources from Geneva to the regional offices. While this modest, resource neutral proposal has been the subject of very considerable and broad discussion over more than two years, it remains the Secretary-General’s and the High Commissioner’s conviction that bringing OHCHR’s technical cooperation resources closer to our partners at the regional and national levels can only improve our capacity to support Member States in delivering on their human rights commitments.

Thank you.