

Comprehensive review of the pension schemes for the members of the
International Court of Justice and judges of the International Tribunal for the

Statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions to the Fifth Committee

(ACABQ report A/66/700)

Mr. Chairman, —

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the comprehensive
review of the pension schemes for the members of the Court and judges of the
Tribunals, which is contained in document A/66/709.

The Advisory Committee has considered the relative merits of the four pension
benefit design options – A to D – set out in the Secretary-General's report, as well as
some of their possible disadvantages. For the purposes of comparison and
discussed in paragraphs 19 to 24 of its report, the Committee also requested
information on the retirement benefits payable to other Secretariat and non-Secretariat
officials, as well as to the judges of the International Criminal Court.

The Advisory Committee notes that, in the Secretary-General's view and based on the
findings of an actuarial study, option A – the defined benefit scheme – is the most appropriate
rather than two-tiered, system of accumulation may be the most appropriate way
forward. The Committee further notes that should the General Assembly endorse the
Secretary-General's recommendation, the estimated liability for new judges projected
for 2011-2020 would be reduced by some \$100 million. In
addition, changing to a linear system of accumulation would reduce the actuarial cost
of funding the pension entitlement over a 10 year period from its current level of
about 66 per cent of the judges' base pay to about 44 per cent.

In its report, and in response to the request of the General Assembly contained in
resolution 65/258, the Advisory Committee also refers to the question of acquired

members of the Court and judges of the Tribunals may face legal and practical
difficulties. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee was informed that the defined
benefit pension scheme – option A – did include an adjustment to reflect the
fact that the individuals concerned had had previous careers and had
acquired pension benefit rights. More detailed information on this issue is contained

Paragraphs 20 and 30 of the Advisory Committee's report
pension scheme with a linear system of accumulation of 2.7 per cent per year.
The Committee also agrees with the Secretary-General that the new pension scheme should
apply only to new members of the Court and judges of the Tribunals, if any. Lastly,
since the Committee considers that the principles of acquired pension benefit rights

~~should have been addressed in more detail in the Secretary General's report, the~~
~~Assembly may wish to request him to give further consideration to this issue and to~~
review.