

Check against delivery

**Implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters
Statement of the Chairman of the ACABQ**

ACABQ report: A/68/583; Related report of the Secretary-General: A/68/387

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of

The Advisory Committee is of the view that the report of the Secretary-General constitutes a useful introduction to the subject, setting out some of the multiple factors that come into play in the design and implementation of a flexible workplace. It concurs with the Secretary-General that a more detailed study is needed, both to validate the findings of the preliminary assessment and to develop a business case for a flexible workplace. The Committee reiterates that all relevant factors should be taken into account during the planning phase of construction projects in order to accurately estimate space allowance and ensure the most efficient use of office space.

Let me now briefly highlight some of the key observations and recommendations put forward by the Advisory Committee in its report.

With regard to the scope and timing of the proposed business case report, the Advisory Committee notes that the General Assembly will consider proposals for long-term accommodation needs at Headquarters during its 68th session. In order to provide the General

In light of the significant impact of the implementation of a flexible workplace on the working environment, workplace communication and working methods, as well as on human resources management policies, the Committee stresses the crucial importance of the active participation of the Office of Human Resources Management in the formulation of the business

case study. It also stresses the need to ensure that the concerned Secretariat departments/offices have an opportunity to provide inputs to the working group, and furthermore, that any proposals for flexible working arrangements should be well adapted to the specific requirements of staff in different departments, workgroups, functions and locations.

Finally Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Committee emphasizes that any proposed flexible working arrangements should ensure that productivity of the Organization and of staff is enhanced and not only focus on reducing space requirements.

I thank you Mr. Chairman