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Statement ofthe Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

18 October 2013

Administration ofjustice at the United Nations and activities ofthe Office ofthe United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services

(ACABQ report: A/68/530; related Secretary-General's reports: A/68/346; A/68/158)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/68/530) on the
administration ofjustice at the United Nations and the activities ofthe Office ofthe United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee's report focuses on the responses ofthe Secretary-
General to the General Assembly's requests in resolution 67/241, and I will summarize some of the Committee's key recommendations.
Firstly, following the General Assembly's request to the Secretary-General to present a proposal for conducting an interim independent assessment ofthe formal system ofthe administration ofjustice, the Secretary-General details his proposal in his report, including the terms ofreference and the entities proposed to conduct the assessment. The Advisory Committee recommends that the terms ofreference should provide for a substantive evaluation ofthe formal system, including a review ofthe jurisprudence ofthe Dispute and Appeals Tribunals and an analysis ofthe conduct ofthe Tribunals' work.

Regarding the appropriate entity to conduct the assessment, bearing in mind the
Assembly's decision that the assessment be conducted within existing resources, the Secretary-General considered two internal bodies - the Joint Inspection Unit and the Board ofAuditors - and proposes the Joint Inspection Unit, given some inspectors' legal backgrounds. The Committee notes that the Joint Inspection Unit may have difficulties absorbing the assessment within its current workload and budgetary framework. The Committee also notes that the mandate ofthe Board ofAuditors may not be broad enough to cover allits

that the exercise would benefit from the expertise ofindependent
legal experts familiar with intemallabour dispute mechanisms. The Committee acknowledges that an assessment by such experts would have financial implications, and the Assembly may wish to revisit its decision that the assessment be conducted within existing resources.

Turning to the General Assembly's request for a single preferred

Legal Officers, four General ServiceAdministrativeAssistants,