

Statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Fifth Committee (4 May 2015)

Report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations and report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2014

ACABQ report: A/69/838
Report of the Board of Auditors: A/69/5(Vol. II)
Report of the Secretary-General: A/69/781

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Board of Auditors' report on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period ended 30 June 2014 and the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Board's recommendations.

The Board has issued an unqualified opinion, based on its examination of the financial statements prepared in accordance with IPSAS. The Advisory Committee commends the Board for the quality of its report and welcomes the review initiated by the Board of travel management and ICT resources in peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

It is worth noting that peacekeeping operations prepared its first set of financial statements in accordance with IPSAS for the financial period ended 30 June 2014. The Board commends the efforts of the Administration while noting the challenges faced in making this transformational change. The Board also observes that additional information generated by IPSAS-compliant financial statements provides greater insight into the financial position of peacekeeping operations.

The Committee commends the Board of Auditors for the important role it has played in guiding IPSAS implementation in the United Nations through its observations and recommendations, and its engagement with the project team on specific issues of concern. The Committee trusts that this engagement will continue into the post-implementation stages of IPSAS.

Coming to specific observations of the Board, the Advisory Committee notes that the matters of ageing stock and unutilized flight hours budgeted across missions continue to cause concern. Similarly, the Board, while acknowledging the steps taken by the Administration to improve budget formulation and management, indicates the need to ensure more realistic budgetary projections and redeployments with full justifications.

Based on these and other observations of the Board relating to procurement and contracts, official travel, assets and air operations, the Committee considers that the management of these areas require further strengthening.

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee notes that the Board, over the past several years, has repeatedly drawn attention to weaknesses relating to the management of peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Committee concludes that reinforcement of internal control measures and monitoring mechanisms is required. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will strengthen the internal control framework in peacekeeping operations.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.