

**Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

21 May 2015

Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 under sections 5, Peacekeeping operations, 8, Legal affairs, 27, Humanitarian assistance, 29B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, 29C, Office of Human Resources Management, 29D, Office of Central Support Services, 34, Safety and security, and 36, Staff assessment

**Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola
and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response**

(ACABQ report: A/69/903, related report: A/69/842)

Mr Chairman,

Let me start by expressing on behalf of the Advisory Committee, our appreciation for the efforts made to address the crisis caused by the Ebola outbreak. The Committee welcomes the progress made in achieving a decline in the rate of transmission of the disease. The Committee also reiterates its appreciation for the dedicated service and commitment of the personnel of the United Nations system and all other actors engaged in the effort to combat

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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

(ACABQ report: A/69/628/Add.1-3; Reports of the Secretary-General: A/69/363/Add.6-8)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on the proposed resource requirements for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Electoral Observer Mission in Burundi (MENUM), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Panel of Experts on South Sudan, for which the Secretary-General is seeking additional appropriation of \$94,006,100 net for the biennium 2014-2015.

The Advisory Committee notes that taking into account section 3 of the programme budget.

In view of the resource requirements, the Advisory Committee recalls the proposed resource requirements for the 35 special political missions (A/69/363 and Corr. 1-3 and Add.1-5), the Secretary-General proposed for the first six months of 2015 for UNAMA and UNSMIL, and a roll-over of 50 per cent of the levels of projected expenditures for 2014. The Committee reiterates its view that the presentation of both the six-month and 12-month full budget by the Secretary-General entails the convening of the General Assembly of two proposals pertaining to the same financial period, which in turn unnecessarily complicates the budget review process.

In view of the proposed 12-month budget for UNSMIL for 2015, the

Regarding the proposed requirements for consultants, the Advisory Committee believes that some functions could be performed using existing United Nations in-house expertise and therefore recommends a reduction of 5 per cent to the proposed resources in this respect. With respect to official travel outside of the mission area (non-training), the Committee also recommends a reduction of 5 per cent and reiterates that resources for official travel should be utilized judiciously in the interest of the Organization and that the primary consideration in authorizing official travel should be whether direct face-to-face contact is necessary for mandate implementation.

I would like to highlight that the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission's operations on the ground were interrupted as a result of the security situation, and that, during July 2014, UNSMIL relocated its international staff members to Tunisia and to Italy. In January 2015, the United Nations Secretariat con