

As delivered

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

October 11, 2017

Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(ACABQ report: A/72/7)

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, Your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates

I am pleased to present the Advisory Committee's

With specific reference to the proposed reductions of \$64.3 million attributed to organizational efficiencies, the Advisory Committee does not object to any of the related proposals – in light of the Secretary-General’s assurance that they will not impact upon the Organization’s ability to deliver mandates. At the

In nearly all the sections of the budget, the proposal put forward by the Secretary-General for 2018-2019 reflect only minimal changes in the staffing levels and structures, from those approved in the 2016-2017 biennium, and does not reflect the Secretary-General's reform proposals. The main exception concerns the proposed resource requirements for section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, which reflects a net reduction of 40 posts, and a proposed reorganization of the Translation Services in New York. The Advisory Committee recognises the efforts made by the Department in this regard and is of the view that the reorganization should be implemented in a phased manner, initially limited to Headquarters.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, let me say that the proposal before you will likely be impacted by the different reform tracks that the Secretary-General has launched. While certain reforms will not necessarily have a direct impact on the resource requirements for the biennium 2018-2019 per se, the proposals will impact upon the way the Secretariat functions, moving forward. The Advisory Committee will be examining