

**Check against delivery**

**Statement of the Vice-Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**15 December 2017**

**Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political  
initiati**



Mr. Chairman,

Now let me turn to the proposed resources for 2018 for the SPMs.

On staffing requirements, the Secretary-General is proposing a net increase of 109 positions (2.9 per cent) for the 34 missions. That increase reflects the proposed establishment of 415 positions and a net reduction of 306 positions. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the proposed staffing requirements for individual missions are contained in its related reports for the missions.

On the operational costs, there is a proposed increase of \$34.7 million for 2018,

Secretary-General to improve the methodology of determining air ticket estimates in all budget proposals.

The second factor is related to low compliance rates with advance purchase policy, which, when improved, will lead to savings.

The third one is regarding utilization of videoconferencing and alternative means of communication. Little information is made available concerning achieved or potential savings arising from the use of alternative means of communication. The Committee continues to be of the view that, given the ever-expanding and improved means of communication offered by available technology, larger reductions in resource requirements for official travel could have been made possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Concerning the holdings of vehicles and computing devices and spare devices of the SPMs, the Advisory Committee notes a trend of increasingly higher-than-standard allocations in recent years. The Committee is of the view that such a trend should be reviewed and reversed.

Regarding the holding of vehicles, the Advisory Committee welcomes the greater scrutiny and control to be exercised over the acquisition of vehicles planned for 2018 and the related redistribution of available vehicle stock across the missions. In addition, the Committee is of the view that vehicle holdings by the SPMs should reflect the revised

vehicle allocation ratios in 2018, rather than in 2019 and that adjustments should be made in this regard without delay.

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee has repeatedly discussed the matter relating to the costs and benefits of the Kuwait Joint Support Office in the past few years. The Committee notes that no independent validation of the cost and benefit of the Support Office is planned in the ongoing review of the shared service centres in the context of the preparation of the next report on the global service delivery model. Moreover, the Committee points out that the setup of the Kuwait Joint Support Office does not include a business case study, with independently validated cost-and-benefits analysis, for approval by the General Assembly.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee has discussed other cross-cutting issues in its report, such as updated information on the backstopping support to SPMs at Headquarters, the lack of progress in the nationalization of positions by the SPMs over recent years and mission support structure.

Thank you.