

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

28 October 2020

Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations 5/201

Chairman

The Advisory Committee notes the progress thus far in implementing the management reform, including the establishment of new management structures and the new system of delegation of authority in January 2019. The Committee also welcomes the efforts to address the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure business continuity, which have allowed the United Nations to continue its work largely uninterrupted.

Regarding the reorganization of management structures, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to clarify the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the new departments and the relevant administrative issuances without further delay. The Committee also highlights the need to address any overlapping functions and blurring of responsibilities, in particular in the area of human resources.

On the new system of delegation of authority, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide in his next progress report information on the net workload impact of the new system, including any potential administrative or financial implications.

The Advisory Committee noted that the Secretariat did not accept one of the Board's recommendations on the need to prevent the granting of Umoja roles without the required delegation of authority, as well as to strengthen the mechanism to identify and revoke delegations when there are justifications for such revocation. The Advisory Committee shares the

Board's concerns. It expects the Secretariat to continue its discussions with the Board and implement a solution that addresses the issues raised to the satisfaction of the Board. It stresses the need to implement all the related recommendations of the Board of Auditors.

The Advisory Committee has consistently emphasized that changes to the system of delegation of authority must be reflected in the accountability system. It considers that an effective, functioning system of accountability is a vital prerequisite for the decentralized system of delegation of authority that is in effect since 1 January 2019 and is concerned by delays in the implementation of the accountability framework. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to present in his next report on accountability a comprehensive set of enhanced performance indicators (KPIs) for monitoring delegated authorities. The KPIs should allow heads of entities to demonstrate that delegated authorities are being exercised in a fully transparent and responsible manner.

In the area of procurement, the Advisory Committee stresses the need to ensure that delegation of procurement authority is being granted to entities with procurement capacity and that relevant administrative issuances are updated and promulgated, delegated authority is being exercised in a fully compliant, transparent, and accountable manner.

With regard to progress made in achieving the expected benefits of reform, the Advisory Committee emphasizes the need for an evidence-based approach. This should clearly demonstrate how

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Vérifier à l'audition

**Déclaration du Président du Comité consultatif pour les questions administratives
et budgétaires**

de repérer et de révoquer les sous-délégations lorsque cette révocation est justifiée. Il partage les préoccupations du Comité des commissaires aux comptes. Il compte que le Secrétariat poursuivra

Le Comité consultatif recommande que le Secrétaire général soit prié de fournir dans son prochain rapport des informations actualisées sur la mise en place d'un plan global de concrétisation des avantages, assorti de délais précis.

Le rapport du Comité consultatif comporte également des observations et des recommandations sur un certain nombre de domaines spécifiques dans lesquels des avantages peuvent être obtenus, notamment la formation et le perfectionnement, la gestion de la chaîne d'approvisionnement et l'informatique et les communications.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie.