

Check against delivery

Statement of the Chairman of the ACABQ on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Office of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian Crisis

Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General: A/66/354/Add.7

Report of the Advisory Committee: A/66/7/Add.24

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed resource requirements for the Office of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian Crisis and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan. The Committee's report covers the Secretary-General's budgetary proposals for 2012. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Secretary-General's proposals are contained in paragraph 20 of its report.

Office of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian Crisis

With respect to the Office of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian Crisis, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget of \$7,488,000 net for the ten-month period ending 31 December 2012, and approval of a charge totalling \$7,488,000 net against the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2012-2013.

The Committee notes that initial resource requirements for the Office of the Joint Special Envoy were funded through the unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures mechanism of the Secretary-General, which was intended as a bridging mechanism.

The proposed budget provides for 18 positions, including that of the Joint Special Envoy, who was appointed on 23 February 2012. The Secretary-General indicates that the primary task of the Joint Special Envoy is to provide the good offices of the Secretary-General in the search for a solution to the Syrian crisis. It is indicated that the Office would be located within the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan

With respect to the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed requirements of \$1,283,200 net for the 12 month period ending 31 December 2012, and approval of a charge totalling \$1,283,200 net against the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2012-2013.

The proposed budget provides for 7 positions, including that of the Special Envoy, whose main task is to support the establishment and maintenance of good relations between the Sudan and South Sudan. While the Committee does not object to the Secretary-General's proposal to locate the Special Envoy in New York, it is of the view that locating him within the region would bring him in closer contact with the parties and could possibly generate savings under operational costs. The Committee therefore recommends that the location of the Special Envoy be kept under review.

Mr Chairman,

I thank you for your attention.