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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

**United Nations Support Mission in Libya
United Nations Political Office for Somalia**

Statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Fifth Committee

(S-G report A/66/354/Add.8; ACABQ report A/66/7/Add.25)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the related report of the Advisory Committee, which is contained in document A/66/7/Add.25. The report contains the Committee's observations and recommendations on the proposed resource requirements for 2012 for two special political missions, namely the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

To begin with UNSMIL, the Advisory Committee's recommendations on civilian personnel and consultants would entail a reduction of \$1.61 million in the proposed requirements for the Mission for 2012. With particular reference to staffing, the Committee is recommending against the establishment of 12 positions across various organizational units, including 5 proposed for deployment to the Global Service Centre at Brindisi. While recognizing the particular circumstances in which UNSMIL is operating, the Committee has reservations about its overall staffing structure and takes the view that it should be kept under review in light of developments on the ground. The full text of the Committee's recommendations can be found in paragraphs 15 to 22 and 25 of its report.

Turning now to UNPOS, the Advisory Committee notes that the new momentum in the peace process in Somalia, as well as the intensified focus of Member States, have created new opportunities and expectations for the Office. It is in that context that additional resources in the amount of \$3.05 million are being requested to implement activities for which provision was not made in the initial budget for 2012. Those activities consist of technical meetings and public consultations relating to the constitutional drafting process and to the convening of a constitutional assembly, as well as the second phase of the deployment of UNPOS to Mogadishu. The Committee has no objection to the Secretary-General's proposals for UNPOS for 2012 but trusts that, during the remainder of the budget period, every effort will be made to seek savings and efficiencies with a view to limiting, to the extent possible, additional expenditure.

The Advisory Committee's overall recommendation on the proposed resource requirements for the two special political missions is set out in section IV of its report.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.