**Agenda item 134. Proposed Programme budget: biennium 2012-2013**

**– Organizational Resilience Management System: Emergency Management Framework**

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**Introductory remarks by Mr. Warren Sach,**

**Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services, Department of Management**

**15 November 2011**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Committee,

I have the pleasure to introduce the Secretary-General's report entitled Organizational Resilience Management System: Emergency Management Framework. The report is submitted in response to the General Assembly's request for a comprehensive management framework as contained in its resolution 64/260. This is complementary to the report entitled Enterprise Information and Communications Technology Initiatives (A/66/94).

Mr. Chairman, the report before the Committee consists of two parts. The first part introduces the framework and its theoretical underpinnings, followed by a description of the pilot undertaken at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The pilot yielded a methodology for practical application of the framework. The second part of the report outlines the application of the framework in the context of the Secondary Data Centre in Piscataway, New Jersey. The report also sets out the resource requirements for the biennium of 2012-2013.

Consistent with the practice in other UN agencies, the Secretariat has, to date, pursued a programme approach to preparedness, characterized by units being responsible for each element of emergency management.

United Nations staff, facilities and systems are vulnerable to a host of man-made threats and natural hazards. Lessons were learned from tragic events, such as the earthquake in Haiti,

the various bombings of the United Nations premises and planning for the persistent threat of pandemic influenza. These have highlighted the interdependence of each element of emergency management and the requirement for a holistic approach. Recognizing this, the Senior Emergency Policy Team (SEPT) adopted a proactive approach by approving a pilot of the Organizational Resilience Management System (ORMS) as the emergency management framework at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.  The pilot was implemented by an inter-Departmental and inter-agency group lead by the Business Continuity Management Unit.

The group was given the responsibility to produce the methodology to implement ORMS and develop its key deliverables. During the risk and impact assessment phase of this process, it was determined that the Secondary Data Centre in Piscataway, New Jersey would be needed to manage the risk of disruption to critical IT applications.  It is in that context that the programme of work to maintain the Secondary Data Centre was included in this report, to demonstrate a practical application of the ORMS framework.

A further requirement that was recognized in the impact assessment, and reinforced by recent crises, is the ability to communicate with staff and determine their status in a crisis. For this reason the report requests funding to expand the Emergency Notification System.

In order to be effective, the data in the Emergency Notification System must be current. Given the size and scope of the Secretariat, we need to enhance the sophistication of platforms to efficiently maintain emergency management plans.  To address this issue, the report proposes to procure specialized software to automate this.

The Organizational Resilience Management System cannot be implemented and sustained without dedicated programme management.  To this end, the report requests the

conversion of three temporary positions in the Business Continuity Management Unit and two temporary positions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to established posts.

The report before you lays down the basic elements to implement ORMS at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The overall resource requirements, under the regular budget arising from the implementation of the proposals in 2012-2013 amount to $3,141,300. These resource requirements cover the total estimated cost to extend the lease on the Secondary Data Centre in Piscataway for another 30 months beyond 31 December 2011, and procurement of specialized software for the maintenance of emergency management plans and expansion of the existing emergency notification system.

In summary, the report represents the first stage of our efforts to implement a comprehensive emergency management framework in the United Nations Secretariat. With guidance from the Assembly, a second stage will follow.

The main objective of the Organizational Resilience Management System is to establish an integrated framework which continuously improves the management of risks, thereby improving preparedness, response, continuity and recovery in the face of disruptive events.

To this end we ask that:

1. ORMS be approved as the emergency management framework of the United Nations Secretariat; and

2. The requested budgetary provisions and lease extension be approved.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.