



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador SUL Kyung-Hoon

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Item 134: Proposed Programme Budget; biennium 2012-2013(ICT/ERP)

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. Since this is the first time that I take the floor, let me first extend my warmest congratulations to you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the 5th Committee. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar, Assistant-Secretary-General, Controller, and Mr. Soon-hong Choi, Assistant-Secretary-General for the Office of Information and Communications Technology(OICT), for introducing the Secretary-General's reports. I also wish to thank Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chairperson of the ACABQ, for introducing the related report.

Mr. Chairman,

2. During this session, it has been repeatedly stressed that all Member States are suffering from ongoing, unprecedented economic difficulties. It has been also stressed that, under these austere conditions, the United Nations needs to ensure more efficient service deliveries and further strengthen accountability and transparency of the UN system. In this regard, my delegation is particularly concerned to hear that the Secretary-General's ERP(Enterprise Resources Planning) project will be delayed for two years. Although

we understand complexity, scale and scope of the project, such a delay by such a long period is deeply regrettable considering the potential ramifications of cost escalation and its impact on the planned transition to IPSAS. My delegation strongly emphasizes that all efforts should be directed towards ensuring that the project is firmly put back on track. Furthermore, the project must be delivered in accordance with the revised timeline and within the approved budget.

Mr. Chairman

3. Now, let me turn to ICT reform efforts by the Secretary-General. The annual expenditure for ICT in the United Nations is estimated at \$774 million. Despite the huge expenses, however, the UN's ICT environments and processes have often been criticized for its decentralization, fragmentation and lack of standardization, which have become major factors to drive up operations costs and prevent from realizing economies of scale.

4. In this respect, my delegation supports the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts to strengthen ICT in the UN system. Timely investments in ICT will bring efficiency and effectiveness in the long run, and help strengthen accountability and credibility of the overall UN system. In particular, integration of ICT management throughout the UN system will help overcome chronic problems such as the fragmentation of ICT capacities and overlapping investments, which have been a major cause for the higher cost of operations and the inefficient implementation of its mandates.

Mr. Chairman

5. We should bear in mind the nature of ICT investments. That is, costs incur immediately while benefits are realized afterwards. If we delay investments, we might save some money in the short-run, but we lose much larger efficiency gains in the long run. Taking these factors into consideration, it is Member States' responsibility to provide necessary tools and resources to the Secretariat in order to hold the Secretariat accountable for efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization.

6. Even though we might not be able to provide the full resources owing to ongoing economic difficulties, my delegation is of the view that we should endorse the four revised initiatives altogether to avoid piecemeal implementation of the ICT strategy. In this regard, my delegation supports the ACABQ's recommendations that the Secretary-General further re-prioritize and reduce the scope of the activities envisaged for the biennium 2012-13 under each of the four Enterprise ICT initiatives, and identify the features that could be postponed without disrupting the ongoing activities.

7. To conclude, I wish to assure you that my delegation will constructively and actively engage itself in the discussion of the proposed ICT initiatives and ERP project.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.