

Introductory Statement to the Fifth Committee

Agenda Item 130: Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

4 March 2013

**Mr. Mario Baez, Chief
Policy and Oversight Coordination Service
Department of Management**

Report of the Secretary-General on Standards of accommodation for air travel (A/67/356)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management, I have the honor to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/67/356), which was prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 42/214, 45/248 A, 53/214, 63/268 and 65/268 and decisions 44/442 and 46/450, as well as decision 57/589, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it on a biennial basis. The present report provides information on standards of accommodation for air travel for the two-year period ended 30 June 2012 and comparative statistics for the two-year period ended 30 June 2010, as well as trend analyses for the past ten years.

In its resolution 65/268 of 4 April 2011, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions A/65/632 which, *inter alia*, requested the travel data of the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations entities to be combined in one table each for the respective time periods. In this regard, tables 1 and 2 in the present report have combined the travel data of the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations entities for the respective time periods.

In its resolution 65/268, the Assembly also decided to extend to the Deputy Secretary-General the entitlements regarding official travel accorded to the Secretary-General in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 42/214. In this regard, the first class travel of the Deputy Secretary-General has only been reported as an exception for the period from 1 July 2010 to 3 April 2011.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform the Committee that in its report on the comprehensive audit of air travel activities and related practices (A/67/695), OIOS concluded that policies and procedures regarding the granting of exceptions to standards of accommodation for air travel were adequate and implemented consistently.

The Committee shall be aware that the Under-Secretary-General for Management continues to discharge the delegation of authority granted to his office by scrutinizing each and every individual request from the different offices and departments of the Organization for their merits -and ensuring that they comply with existing regulations, rules and procedures- and exercising utmost restraint in granting the exceptions requested. The recent conclusion by OIOS mentioned above is a reflection of this.

Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat stands ready to answer any questions the distinguished delegates may have in respect of the present report of the Secretary-General that has hereby been introduced.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.