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

**Expanded feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034**

*ACABQ report: A/67/788;*

*Report of the Secretary-General: A/67/720*

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/67/788) regarding the expanded feasibility study on the Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034.

The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General has presented his four options in the expanded feasibility study. In his view, the proposed United Nations Consolidation Building (DC-5) by the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC), under option 3, is the most preferable. The main recommendations of the Committee in this regard are contained in paragraphs 52 to 54 of its report. Let me highlight some of our key observations.

First, though four options are presented in the expanded feasibility study, the Advisory Committee finds that the information provided in the report is not complete or comprehensive. As a result, the Committee is unable to arrive at a conclusion as to which option represents the most viable one at this stage. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that all options should be kept open for full development and consideration. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to explore options, including, but not limited to, those presented in the expanded feasibility study, and to submit another report with more comprehensive information.

Second, the Secretary-General has recommended that the General Assembly request him to enter into negotiations with UNDC to seek most favourable terms for the proposed DC-5 and for the continued leasing of DC-1 and DC-2, among other things. The Advisory Committee understands that the Secretary-General needs authority from Member States to negotiate with UNDC and other possible entities for options on long-term office needs. Consequently, the Committee does not object to the General Assembly allowing the Secretary-General to engage in negotiations with UNDC so as to ensure that the proposed DC-5 remains a viable option. The Committee is, however, of the view that the authority to negotiate, if granted by the Assembly to the Secretary-General, should refer to all options, and should be without prejudice to any decision by the Assembly concerning the long-term Headquarters office needs.

Third, the Advisory Committee has discussed a number of key factors affecting the estimation of office space needs at the Headquarters in section III of its reports, including population analysis, office space allowance and alternative workplace strategies, and an appropriate level of owned versus leased office space by the Organization which should be linked to the planning for the future of the Organization. While the Committee sees merits in including the funds and programmes in both the original and expanded feasibility studies, it is of the view that the baseline for calculating the core office space needs should include staff of the Secretariat only.

Mr. Chairman,

My fourth point is related to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library and the South Annex Buildings. In the view of the Committee, the Secretary-General has not proposed options on the renovation of the two buildings, with financial implications, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/246 (sect.V, para.29).

The last point I am going to make is about the Secretary-General's proposal to defer removal of the temporary North Lawn Building. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly did not approve the cost reduction related to the proposed deferred removal of the temporary North Lawn Building in its resolution 67/246. The Committee is of the view that in his report, the Secretary-General has not put forward a proposal that merits the reconsideration of the recent decision not to delay the demolition of the temporary North Lawn Building by the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.