<u>**Agenda Item 130: Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013**</u>

8 March 2013

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Report of the Secretary-General on
Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors
contained in its report on the handling of information and communication
technology (ICT) affairs in the Secretariat (A/67/651/Add.1)

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honor to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on

implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in

its report on the handling of information and communication technology (ICT)

affairs in the Secretariat (A/67/651/Add.1). This report was prepared in

accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 48/216B that

requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly, at the same time as the

Board of Auditors' submission of its recommendations to the Assembly, on measures taken or to be taken to implement those recommendations.

I would like to inform you that the Secretariat has accepted all of the recommendations contained in the Board's report and in the memorandum on ICT security to the Chairman of the ACABQ. We are already working towards their implementation.

This is the first presentation to the Fifth Committee on an ICT-related issue since the General Assembly decided to move OICT to the Department of Management. You shall be aware that this report is very relevant and timely because our Department has been acutely aware of the need to make a comprehensive review of OICT on the basis of its five year experience. The Secretariat will be conducting a comprehensive review of its ICT strategy and governance, ICT operations and structure and ICT resource allocation and will submit a report to the General Assembly at the sixty-eighth session. In that report, we will also provide an update on the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the current report of the Board (A/67/651).

However, I would like to use this opportunity to inform you of the current thinking on main aspects. First, we need to revise the 2008 ICT strategy by making clear alignment of ICT with the business support strategies of the Organization and placing Umoja at its center. This strategy will be applicable to all departments and offices of the Secretariat without exception.

A major challenge that we will face is the design of a revised ICT governance structure that is appropriate for the implementation of the revised strategy. The United Nations is a complex organization that comprises multiple entities and offices around the world which have a high degree of autonomy and independence. In this area, we are foreseeing a governance structure that is directly linked to the entire Organization's business model and under which some decisions are harmonized and/or taken centrally and others delegated locally. This is an area where we will work closely with all the Heads of Departments and Offices.

An important area on this governance structure is the role of the Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) and the structure of the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT). We agree with the Board that the CITO should play a leading role in major transformational

projects in the Organization, and the ICT revised strategy will focus on this. We also agree with the Board that the CITO should be assisted by a Chief Technology Officer (CTO) responsible only for technology/operational issues (rather than strategic issues). But we believe that both roles should be under the supervision of the CITO for both functions to be effective in the United Nations Secretariat.

Finally, as you know the Board requested the Secretariat to address, as a matter of urgency, issues related to information security. The Board issued a separate letter to the ACABQ in this crucially important area. I would like to inform you that immediate steps have been taken to implement short-term measures to address the most urgent shortcomings, as well as a long-term strategy. During the informal consultations we will be providing you with detailed information on this subject.

In conclusion, we have examined this timely report of the Board with great interest and attention. It will assist the Secretariat in improving the ICT systems in the Organization. This is a task to which the Department of Management is fully committed.

You can rest assured that the Secretariat will build on our operational strengths and our commitment to quality service, both of which have been recognized by the Board and the ACABQ in their reports, to meet successfully all the challenges the Secretariat faces in the important areas.

Thank you.