

Organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework

Statement by the Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the Fifth Committee

(ACABQ report A/67/608)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the organizational resilience management system, which is contained in document A/67/608.

As indicated by the Secretary-General, the main aim of the organizational resilience management system is to establish a comprehensive approach to emergency management. Paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report gives an overview of the framework and methodology used to implement the system at the United Nations, and paragraphs 7 to 12 describe the key players involved. In this connection, the Committee notes that the soon-to-be operational United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre will have a role in the system. The Committee looks forward to receiving more information on this issue in the Secretary-General's next report.

Information on implementation of the organizational resilience management system to date at Headquarters, as well as its planned expansion to cover field missions and the agencies, funds and programmes, is contained in paragraphs 15 to 19 of the Committee's report. The Committee has made recommendations on the use of performance indicators to measure the impact of the system, at both the macro and the micro levels, in paragraphs 21 and 25.

On the question of cost, the Advisory Committee was informed that the organizational resilience management system had been and would continue to be implemented using existing resources. Nevertheless, the Committee considers it important that the actual cost of the initiative be documented. Accordingly, it is recommending that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide a detailed accounting of the full cost of the system in his next report.

As you are aware, while the Secretary-General's report was being considered by the Advisory Committee, Hurricane Sandy hit the New York area. Paragraphs 26 to 30 of the Committee's report contain its comments on the Organization's response to the storm. In particular, the Advisory Committee stresses the importance of ensuring that Member States and staff receive updated information in the event of emergencies affecting the United Nations. The Committee welcomes the Secretary-General's decision to convene a senior-level task force to examine lessons learned and the requirement for additional emergency response measures. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit to it,

at the first part of the resumed current session, a report on the outcome of the work of the task force, including proposals to address any shortcomings identified.

Overall, the Advisory Committee has no objection to the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 64 of his report, namely, that the General Assembly approve the organizational resilience management system approach as the emergency management framework. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-eighth session, a progress report on the implementation of the system.