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Reports on the Department of Safety and Security and on the use of private security

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

(ACABQ report A/67/624)

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee's report (A/67/624) provides its observations and recommendations on the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the Department of Safety and Security (A/67/526) as well as on the use of private security (A/67/539). The Secretary-General's comprehensive report reviews progress made by DSS and its partners towards establishing a modern and effective security management system for the protection and coordination of the safety and security arrangements for the United Nations in Headquarters and in the field.

The Advisory Committee recalls that the activities of the Department are financed both from the regular budget and on a cost-sharing basis with other organizations covered by the security management system in the field under the gross budget for jointly-financed activities. The Committee reiterates its view that cost-sharing arrangements are important to ensure that all concerned share both ownership of and accountability for the system, and that the Department should critically review and assess its available resources against its current operational needs and priorities. In this connection, the Committee considers that the presentation of proposals for the gross budget for jointly-financed activities could benefit from greater transparency and coherence. The Committee requests that the Secretary-General ensure that subsequent budgetary proposals disclose the functions and related requirements that are to be met through the gross budget for jointly financed activities as well as those of participating organizations that are expected to complement the activities of DSS in the field.

Mr Chairman,

The Advisory Committee commends the Department of Safety and Security for the progress it has made towards strengthening the security management system for the coordination of security arrangements for United Nations personnel, premises and assets in a challenging security environment.

The Committee recalls its previous observations on the revised framework for accountability for the United Nations security management system regarding the monitoring of managerial performance. While cognisant of the measures taken to decentralize decision-making in security matters and the increased use of security officers with regional responsibility, the Committee expects that DSS will nevertheless ensure full

accountability for compliance with security policies and guidelines throughout the United Nations system and will monitor managerial performance through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network.

The Secretary General's report indicates that in 2012 the Department established a common policy on Relations with the Host Country on Security Issues for the United Nations Security Management System. Taking into account the position of the General Assembly in its resolution 65/259 that primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of the United Nations staff and premises rests with the host country, the Committee encourages DSS to continue to strengthen its cooperation with host governments to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets.

Mr Chairman,

Regarding the Secretary-General's report on the use of private security, the Advisory Committee notes that, while the United Nations also plays a substantive role relating to the regulation and monitoring of armed private security companies, the report limits its scope to the United Nations as a client of armed private security companies in its operations in Headquarters and in field locations.

According to the Secretary-General's report, the Inter-Agency Security Management Network established a working group in August 2011 under the chair of the Department of Safety and Security, and following a process of inter-agency and interdepartmental review, adopted a policy and guidelines governing the use of armed private security companies in June 2012. The Advisory Committee was informed that this policy was approved by the Chief Executives' Board for Coordination (CEB) in November 2012. The Committee is of the view that the policy should be considered by the relevant Committees of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the Department of Safety and Security (A/67/526) and the report of the Secretary-General on the use of private security (A/67/539), taking into account the observations and recommendations contained in the Committee's report.

I thank you.