

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

24 March 2015

Statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

(ACABQ report A/69/826, related report A/C.5/69/19)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize (A/69/826).

The Advisory Committee notes that the additional resources required for the award of the first Prize in 2015 are estimated at \$97,600. This takes into account of an amount of \$4,000 that has been identified for absorption within the approved appropriation under section 28 of the programme budget for 2014-2015. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed resource requirements. However, considering the current pattern of expenditures under section 28 for the biennium, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb the additional requirements requested under the section, failing which the additional expenditures related to the implementation of the activities arising from the draft resolution A/69/L.55 should be reflected in the second performance report for the biennium.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the scheduling of the award ceremony in 2015, the Advisory Committee notes from the statement of the Secretary-General that the award ceremony is scheduled to be held in September 2015, rather than on Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July 2015. While it acknowledges the need for an adequate preparation for the first award of the Prize, the Advisory Committee notes that this appears to be inconsistent with the proposed statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize. In addition, the scheduling of the award ceremony in September 2015 would have financial implications which are explained in paragraph 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.