

**Statement of the Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**13 March 2015**

**Strategic capital review**

*(ACABQ report A/69/811, related report A/69/760)*

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the strategic capital review (A/69/811).

The Advisory Committee notes that under the strategic capital review, for the first time, the Organization has developed an extensive long-term capital maintenance programme. The programme would serve as a viable planning tool and facilitate the consideration and decision-making of the General Assembly. The Committee, therefore, commends the efforts made by the Secretary-General in this regard.

The Advisory Committee requested clarification on the actions requested of the Assembly as contained in paragraph 69 (a) and (b) of the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee was informed that the Secretary-General is not seeking approval for specific projects or other major maintenance and alterations and improvements activities identified as a result of the completion of the initial strategic capital review in his report. Rather, the Secretary-General is seeking general concurrence with the principles explained in paragraph 36 of the report of the Committee. The Advisory Committee supports the general principles proposed by the Secretary-General in the context of the strategic capital review.

The Advisory Committee is, nonetheless, of the view that the proposal for future incremental recapitalization based on a life-cycle replacement methodology should be refined

and that the costs and benefits of a preventative maintenance programme be further detailed in the next report of the Secretary-General on the strategic capital review.

Mr. Chairman,

As for the linkages with other initiatives already launched by the Organization or to be considered by the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee stresses the importance of regularly updating the strategic capital review so that the review will reflect future decisions of the General Assembly and respond to the changing needs of the Organization.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Statement of the Chairman**  
**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)**  
**13 March 2015**

**Comprehensive business case for the application of flexible workplace strategies at the  
United Nations**

*(ACABQ report: A/69/810; related Secretary-General's report: A/69/749)*

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the comprehensive business case for the application of flexible workplace strategies at the United Nations (A/69/810).

The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General has made a sound business case for a flexible workplace at Headquarters, considering the cost benefit analysis as well as the qualitative and quantitative benefits, including the anticipated savings arising from the termination of the leases in the Daily News, Albano and Court Square Buildings. The Committee therefore recommends implementation of a flexible workplace at Headquarters.

With respect to the resources requested for the biennium 2014-2015, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the request, although the Secretary-General should explore alternatives to the personal information technology package and review the related costs for 2015. In this regard, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of \$5,819,000, and on an exceptional basis, to use the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account to fund flexible workplace in the same amount on a cash-flow basis.

In addition, the Advisory Committee recommends that flexible workplace strategies be incorporated in the development of the strategic heritage plan, and that the Secretary-

General assess the potential for application of flexible workplace strategies in all duty stations across the Organization. Finally, the Committee welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to continue to engage with staff representatives, noting that the implementation of a flexible workplace should take into account staff considerations and staff workplace environment needs.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.