

Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management

**Remarks to the
Fifth Committee of the General Assembly
on the approval of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017**

23 December 2015

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank you all for the hard work and dedication you put into the negotiations that resulted in the adoption of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, ICSC compensation package and scales of assessment among other.

Especially I would like to express my gratitude to the Chairman, Ambassador Durga Prasad Bhattari for your leadership. Our appreciation goes to the members of the bureau and many vacillators, and also to the ACABQ.

As usual, the program budget is the result of a rigorous process of review and discussions, and I appreciate that you found a consensus that reflects agreement among all Member States to fulfil their financial responsibility to the UN.

Over the last four biennia, the regular budget has remained fairly steady, except for provisions for re-costing for inflation and currency exchange and Special Political Missions. With real efforts by the Secretary-General to seek efficiencies and reduce the budget, the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 continued on this path. What you have agreed go well beyond the level of outline and representing minus 3.5 % in real term.

Despite the now much reduced regular budget that has been approved, we are grateful to the committee for giving us the go-ahead to support the follow-up and review process of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and Financing for Development agendas, waiting for consideration of a comprehensive report next year. This will help to ensure that the UN Secretariat delivers on its important role in providing support to Member States and the intergovernmental processes without delay.

We uphold our obligation to you to make best use of the resources you entrust us with. But I cannot fail to recognize that the further cut of Public Information and ~~Section 29~~ Common support services, going beyond the identified efficiencies at the last stage, will pose a significant operational challenge, especially when the organization is still in the midst of an unprecedented on-going and new transformation initiatives towards a truly global Secretariat.

As demands for implementation of new mandates continue to grow, the budget decisions the Assembly has taken are essential for the ability of the United Nations Secretariat to adapt to the changing global landscape and to our ability to deliver on the mandate entrusted to us.

I thank you for your leadership and commitment and look forward to our ongoing work together

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates.