

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

16 December 2015

Second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

(ACABQ report: A/70/619; related report: A/70/557)

Mr. Chairman,

With respect to the second performance report for the biennium 2014-2015, the Advisory Committee notes that the anticipated final level of expenditures and income for the biennium represents a net reduction of \$51.5 million compared with the revised appropriation and estimate of income approved by the General Assembly. The Committee also notes that the Secretary-General's report was presented with insufficient information to enable a better understanding of the factors underlying the reported resource changes and trusts that the Secretary-General will address these concerns fully in future performance reports.

The Advisory Committee notes that the forward purchasing of foreign currencies over the period from 2013 to 2015 has improved budgetary predictability. However, the Committee is of the view that the information provided in the report falls short of the General Assembly's request to the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive assessment of the experience of forward purchasing.

Regarding the travel of staff, the Advisory Committee would have expected a greater reduction in expenditure than what has been reported in the light of reduced average ticket prices and potential cost savings related to the application of the revised travel policy. Finally, the Committee commends the Secretary-General for the sustained efforts to reduce the level of unliquidated obligations and trusts that, in future performance reports, the Secretary-General will provide more details on unliquidated obligations.

Thank you