

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

21 March 2016

United Nations Secretariat contribution to the United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system

(ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.48; related Secretary-General's report: A/70/703)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.48) that addresses the Secretary-General's proposal for the United Nations Secretariat to contribute an amount of \$13.3 million to support the resident coordinator system for the 2016-2017 biennium based on a cost-sharing formula developed by the United Nations Development Group.

The Advisory Committee expresses the view that the Secretary-General needs to provide further justification and resubmit his proposal to the General Assembly for consideration. In the interim, the Committee recommends the approval of an appropriation of \$6.5 million to cover the Secretariat's contribution for the year 2016 only.

While the Advisory Committee recognizes the important role played by the resident coordinator system, the Committee insists that the Secretariat's contribution should be based on a clearly formulated cost-sharing formula. In that regard, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/226, contributions should reflect the direct involvement of each entity, based on the proportion of services used, which has not clearly reflected in the Secretary-General's proposal. The Advisory Committee also expects that any updates in membership of the United Nations Development Group will be factored into the arrangement. In addition, the salaries and operational support costs for the Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General who also serve as resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators should be factored into the cost-sharing arrangement.

Finally, the Advisory Committee takes note of the financial and performance reporting mechanisms proposed by the Secretary-General. However, the Committee also notes the absence of a unified mechanism for intergovernmental consideration of all aspects of the cost-sharing arrangement, including its budget. In the Committee's view, the UNDP Executive Board may be best positioned to fulfil this role considering that UNDP is the custodian of the resident coordinator system. In this case, and taking into account its mandate to review the budgets funded from both assessed and voluntary contributions, the Advisory Committee will review and advise on the global budget of the resident coordinator system in the context of its consideration of the UNDP institutional budget.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.