

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

17 March 2016

Revised estimates for the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for Syria related to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.46; related report: A/70/726)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.46) on the revised estimates for the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for Syria related to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

The Security Council in its resolution 2258 (2015) renewed the mandate of the monitoring mechanism for a period of 12 months until 10 January 2017. The proposed revised estimates amount to \$4,323,600 under section 27, Humanitarian assistance, to be charged against the contingency fund for the biennium 2016-2017, and \$341,300 under section 36 Staff assessment.

The proposed staffing complement for the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for Syria for 2016 would consist of 43 General Temporary Assistance positions. A net reduction of 14 positions compared to the previous staff complement of 57 positions.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering that the mandate of the Mechanism, established in 2014, had already been renewed once, the Advisory Committee is of the view that a second yearly renewal could have been anticipated and that the relevant budget requirements could have been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, so as to avoid a piecemeal approach to the budget process.

Subject to its comments, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the additional resources requested by the Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.