

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

18 March 2016

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/ or the Security Council

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General

Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General
(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add. 47; related report: A/70/348/Add.8 and Corr. 1)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/ or the Security Council for thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General (*A/70/7/Add. 47*).

The Security Council, in its resolution 2248 (2015) of 12 November 2015, invited the Secretary-General to deploy a team in Burundi to assess the situation and to present options on the future presence of the United Nations in Burundi. I would like to stress that, without prejudice to the future presence, the Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations reflect the information made available at the time of its consideration of the proposal of the Secretary-General's report.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the budget for the Office of the Special Adviser. However, the Advisory Committee recommends some reductions to the proposed staffing levels both at United Nations Headquarters and in Burundi, as the Office of the Special Adviser is in its beginning stages and rather small. The Committee is of the view that the activities of the Dialogue Support Unit and of the Disarmament and Security Advisory Unit should be phased in gradually and, at this early stage, should therefore be performed by one consolidated unit. The Office should also avail itself of the finance and human resources support readily available through the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe.

I also would like to point out that the Secretary-General's proposed staffing requirements are linked to the location of the Special Adviser, currently stationed at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.