

**Remarks by Ms. Carole Wamuyu Wainaina, Assistant Secretary-General
for Human Resources Management**

~~**Note by the Secretary-General on Operational arrangements and conditions of service
of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/70/544)**~~

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates of the Fifth Committee, Chairman of the Advisory Committee,

I have the pleasure to introduce Part II of the Note of the Secretary-General on operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in document (A/70/544). Part II of the note contains the comments and views of the Secretary-General on recommendations for improving conditions of service of the members of the Advisory Committee, in particular, their health insurance coverage, privileges and immunities and conditions of remuneration.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General supports the proposal to the General Assembly to decide on the specific level of the net annual remuneration of the ACABQ members within the range proposed by the Chair of the Advisory Committee taking into account the current programme of work of the Committee, the level of experience required, and the increased workload. It might also be practical if this proposal is considered against the backdrop of the existing arrangements for other United Nations officials other than Secretariat officials, such as inspectors of the Joint Inspection Unit and the full-time judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal whose salaries and other conditions of service are equivalent to those payable to United Nations staff members at the D-2, step IV, level.

The Secretary-General further supports the proposed allowances and benefits for full-time members of the Advisory Committee set out in annex I of the Note, as well as the recommendation that the annual net remuneration of the members of the Advisory Committee be subject to the same cost-of-living adjustment as that applied to the compensation of the Chair of the Committee in accordance with section III, paragraph 7, of

Assembly resolution 65/268, and that the other elements of their conditions of service be reviewed by the Assembly every four years at the same time as the other conditions of service of the Chair of the Committee.

The Secretary-General agrees with the need to establish a transitional mechanism for the current members of ACABQ as proposed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 22 of his report.

The Secretary-General concurs with the proposal of the Chair of the Advisory Committee to continue to offer to the members of the Committee the option of joining the United Nations Headquarters-administered health insurance programme, upon payment of the full cost of the related insurance premium. Conditions for members of the Committee who would opt to join the United Nations Headquarters-administered health insurance programme are specified in paragraph 7 of Part II of the note.

With respect to the legal status of members of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General believes that the General Assembly may wish to consider that, for the purposes of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should have the status of officials other than Secretariat officials performing functions for the Organization on a substantially full-time basis and thereby be granted privileges and immunities under articles V and VII of the Convention.

Finally, statement of financial implications of the present proposals on operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Advisory Committee is provided in paragraphs 10 through 17 of Part II of the Note.

Thank you.