

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

10 November 2015

Review of the experience of the utilization of the contingency fund

(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.7; related report: A/70/395)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.7) on the review of the experience of the utilization of the contingency fund.

The Committee was informed that the operation of the contingency fund has not changed since its establishment by the General Assembly in the biennium 1990-1991 but notes that in three recent instances, additional appropriations have been approved outside the contingency fund, specifically for the biennia 2006-2007, 2012-2013; and 2014-2015. The Advisory Committee notes that, in addition to the contingency fund, the Secretary-General is provided with further financial flexibility in the use of resources; details in this respect are contained in the Committee's report on the Limited Budgetary Discretion mechanism¹.

Mr. Chairman,

The Advisory Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that it is the responsibility of the Secretary-General, as chief administrative officer of the Organization, to ensure that the proposed programme budget presents the fullest possible picture of the Organization's requirement for any given biennium. The Committee also recalls its view that the contingency fund is an essential budgetary instrument for addressing additional resource requirements and continues to stress that, in the event of any constraints faced, the Secretary-General should bring these matters to the attention of the General Assembly in a timely manner.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General, taking into consideration the comments contained in its report.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

¹ See A/70/7/Add. 5, annex