

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

**17 November 2015**

**Status of implementation of the information and  
communications technology strategy for the United Nations**

*(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.18, related report A/70/364)*

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on status of the implementation of the ICT strategy, contained in document A/70/7/Add.18

The Advisory Committee welcomes the progress reported by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the elements of the ICT strategy during its initial nine-month implementation period. The Committee notes the efforts made to prioritize development of capacities to support the roll-out of Umoja at cluster 3 and 4 entities, including the establishment of an enterprise service desk, as well as improvements in connectivity and management of the global enterprise network.

The Committee recognizes that the initial process of the transformation of the highly fragmented ICT environment of the Secretariat has commenced. Given that ICT infrastructure enables development of other major business transformation initiatives such as Umoja and shared services, the Advisory Committee considers it essential that the implementation of the elements of the ICT strategy should proceed in a timely manner.

With regard to the indicative budget projection requested by the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee considers the absence of analysis and information on peacekeeping ICT resources to be a serious weakness in the report of the Secretary-General and in the implementation of the elements of the ICT strategy. In the absence of a comprehensive analysis and holistic view of ICT resource requirements across the entire Secretariat, the Advisory Committee is not in a position to pronounce itself on the merits of the indicative five-year budget projections for the implementation of the ICT strategy. The Committee is therefore recommending that the Secretary-General be requested to submit in his next report a comprehensive indicative five-year ICT budget projection for the Secretariat.

Mr Chairman,

I will now highlight some of the Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations on the implementation of some of the specific elements of the ICT strategy.

With regard to the enterprise application centres, the Advisory Committee welcomes the initial analysis of the existing applications provided in the report of the Secretary-General.

The Committee has long highlighted the need to reduce the high level of fragmentation in this area and to eliminate redundant, duplicative and obsolete applications. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to further refine his analysis and to provide in his next report, updated information on the total number of applications, those that can be decommissioned and those that can be replaced by Umoja

With regard to the regional technology centres, the Advisory Committee was informed that the centres consisted of logical structures rather than physical centres, and aim to ensure proper alignment of regional ICT services with the ICT strategy. In contrast, regional cooperation arrangements for ICT in peacekeeping such as the regional ICT service at the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, were intended to support ICT service delivery in peacekeeping. The Committee was also informed that, as the regional technology centres mature, they will collaborate more closely with peacekeeping ICT services. The Advisory Committee stresses the need to optimise and integrate use of the Organization's ICT infrastructure and avoid duplication wherever possible

With regard to the enterprise data centres at Brindisi and Valencia, which are operated by the Department of Field Support and host several core enterprise systems used Secretariat-wide such as Umoja, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide full details on the costs of their operations and cost recovery arrangements.

With regard to the enterprise service desk, the Advisory Committee notes that Umoja tier 1 level support for peacekeeping entities is provided locally. The Committee is of the view that a unified system for Umoja support should be established.

With regard to defragmentation, the Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts being made to harmonize and consolidate ICT functions in certain areas of the Secretariat and reduce the level of fragmentation of the ICT environment of the United Nations. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide a comprehensive picture of such efforts and the progress achieved, as well as a plan for the harmonization and consolidation of the remaining ICT functions across the Secretariat.

With regard to business intelligence and analytics, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to provide comprehensive information on all business data warehouses, including those related to peacekeeping entities. The information should include details on the resources currently dedicated to this area and the efforts envisaged for the consolidation of the data warehouses, as well as information on the improvements in the type and quality of information that can be made available to Member States for decision making.

Finally, Mr Chairman,

With regard to the human resources and skills assessment to be presented in the next report, the Advisory Committee stresses that it should be based on a comprehensive analysis that includes the peacekeeping ICT workforce and covers all categories of personnel under all funding sources, including posts and positions, consultants, contractual personnel and any other third-party personnel.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.