

**Statement of the Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**27 October 2015**

**Eighth progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector  
Accounting Standards by the United Nations**

*(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.2; related report: A/70/329)*

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Secretary-General's eighth progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the United Nations (A/70/7/Add.2).

The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General for achieving the important milestone of successfully implementing IPSAS at the United Nations in 2014. Having achieved this milestone, the Committee cautions that much work still remains in harnessing the benefits of IPSAS to achieve greater efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the management of the Organization's resources.

As the Organization transitions into the post-implementation phase of the IPSAS project, the Advisory Committee trusts that the necessary emphasis will be placed on the longer-term efforts to sustain IPSAS compliance in the day-to-day operations throughout the Organization and to ensure that all the envisaged benefits are fully realized. In this regard, the Advisory Committee stresses the role that managers are expected to play in driving the benefit realization process, particularly, by utilizing the IPSAS generated information for better decision making.

Mr Chairman,

The Advisory Committee remains concerned about the delay in the implementation of Umoja and the risk it poses to the realization of IPSAS benefits, particularly, the continued reliance on multiple legacy systems to generate the data used in the preparation of financial statements. The Committee trusts that close cooperation between the IPSAS and Umoja project teams will minimize this risk.

Finally, the Advisory Committee is pleased to note that all 24 United Nations system entities have successfully implemented IPSAS and that all these entities have received unqualified audit opinions from the Board of Auditors on their 2014 financial statements. The Committee looks forward to the continued collaboration between these entities on matters related to the sustainability of IPSAS compliance during the post-implementation phase.

Thank you Mr Chairman