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Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

10 November 2015

Limited budgetary discretion

(ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.5, related Secretary-General's report: A/70/396)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.5) on the limited budgetary discretion mechanism.

Mr. Chairman,

The discretionary mechanism - first authorized by the General Assembly in its 60th session - has been utilized on eight occasions over the course of three bienniums, between 2006 and 2011, and has remained unused since then. The Advisory Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's efforts to refine the criteria for the use of the mechanism, set out in his most recent report, and encourages him to continue refining them while ensuring strict application of the principles contained in General Assembly resolution 60/283.

At the same time, the Committee also notes that the limited budgetary discretion mechanism continues to be authorized on an experimental basis only, that the \$20 million ceiling has never been fully utilized and that other existing mechanisms were used to respond to recent crisis such as the Ebola outbreak in Western Africa and the consequences of storm Sandy at the UN Headquarters.

For these reasons, the Committee is not convinced that the mechanism continues to have merit particularly as it compares to other funding mechanisms. While questioning its ongoing utility, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize its exceptional continuation for the biennium 2016-2017 only. Should the Secretary-General consider that the mechanism is required beyond this date, he should submit a comprehensive justification for its subsequent retention to the General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.