

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1 December 2015

**Study on the long-term accommodation needs at United Nations
Headquarters for the period from 2015 to 2034**

(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.22; related report: A/70/398)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the study on the long-term accommodation needs at United Nations Headquarters for the period from 2015 to 2034 (A/70/7/Add.22).

The Advisory Committee considers that a significant number of uncertainties need to be addressed with respect to the impact of the Organization's business transformation initiatives on the number of staff and their physical space requirements in New York and is of the opinion that actual long-term accommodation needs can only be assessed once a clearer determination with regard to staff and other resource requirements becomes apparent. Furthermore, the Committee believes that more effort is needed to explore all options, or variations thereof, including options which would locate staff in office space near accessible public transportation routes, as appropriate. With respect to the costs involved of any such future project, the Committee believes that the Secretary-General, in his role as Chief Executive Officer, should explore the possibilities available, without prejudice, for the financing of such a project and develop a more focused and formal approach when approaching the Host Country and other Member States in this regard.

Until such time as actual long-term accommodation needs can be assessed and to ensure reasonable organizational flexibility, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to explore interim solutions, including the possibility of extension of the current leases of the DC-1 and DC-2 buildings, under the most preferable terms possible.

Mr. Chairman,

It is therefore the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to assess how the various business transformation initiatives might impact on space needs at Headquarters and to develop the most feasible options for long-term accommodation, including funding possibilities, to be presented to the Assembly at the appropriate time. The Advisory Committee also recommends, at the present time, that any related work should be undertaken using existing resources and, therefore, recommends against the appropriation of additional resources for the biennium 2016-2017 under the contingency fund or under other funding mechanisms.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.