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

15 December 2015

**Matters relating to activities under the United Nations Programme
on Space Applications in 2016**

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/70/L.9/Rev.1

ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.27

Statement of the Secretary-General: A/C.5/70/11

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/70/L.9/Rev.1 on Matters relating to activities under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2016.

The Secretary-General's proposals would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of \$197,800 under section 6, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, comprising \$17,800 for the travel of staff and \$180,000 for grants and contributions.

The Advisory Committee notes that the language used in the final sentence of paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement and operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution is not consistent with the relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. In this regard, the Committee stresses that the correct interpretation of these Regulations and Rules should be reflected in the Secretary-General's reports to the General Assembly and that, in accordance with section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, the Secretary-General should provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 December 2015

**Persons with Albinism, Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Human rights situation in the
Syrian Arab Republic**

**Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/C.3/70/L.14/Rev.1,
L.26/Rev.1, L.47**

(ACABQ reports A/70/7/Add.33, Add.32, Add.31; related reports: A/C.5/70/15, 16, 14)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports (A/70/7/Add.33, A/70/7/Add.32 and A/70/7/Add.31) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions adopted by the Third Committee on persons with Albinism, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the human rights situation in Syria.

The Secretary-General indicates in his statements that the translation and processing of the three reports related to (a) various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, (b) the result of consultations, to be conducted during a high-level event to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Person in 2017, regarding measures to enable the participations of indigenous people's representatives in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies affecting them, and, (c) the human rights situation in Syria, would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of a pre-session document of 8,500 words in all six official languages in 2016 amounting to \$50,900 each.

According to the Secretary-General, at the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium 2016-2017. According to the Secretary-General, it is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of \$50,900 (for each of the three reports) be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb the additional requirements (totalling \$152,700) requested under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017; if despite efforts, the requirements cannot be absorbed, the additional expenditures related to the implementation of the activities arising from draft resolutions A/ C.3/70/L. 14/Rev1, L.26/Rev1 and L.47 should be reflected in the second performance report for the biennium.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 December 2015

**Situation of human rights in Myanmar
Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1**

(ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.29; related statement: A/C.5/70/12)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.29) on the Secretary-General's statement related to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1.

The requested requirements for the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar have been included in the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions for 2016 (A/70/348/Add.1), which is currently before the General Assembly for consideration. The Advisory Committee recalls that the resource requirements for the Office of the Special Adviser, in an amount of \$1,127,200 net, were included in that report so as to consolidate the overall resource requirements of all special political missions. The Committee has recommended that the General Assembly approve the resource requirements for the Office of the Special Adviser (A/70/7/Add.11).

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**Statement of the Chairman
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)
15 December 2015**

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-seventh session

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/70/L.13

(ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.36; related Secretary-General's statement: A/C.5/70/13)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the programme budget implications of General Assembly draft resolution A/C.6/70/L.13 on the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-seventh session.

The Advisory Committee considered the additional resource requirements related to a 12-week session of the International Law Commission, and recalls that in its first reports on the proposed programme budgets for the biennia 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, it recommended that the full amount of resources required for sessions of up to a total of 12 weeks be addressed within the overall proposed allocation for section 8, Legal affairs. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to absorb the additional requirements in the amount of \$232,100 under section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 December 2015

**Oceans and the law of the sea
Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/70/L.22**

(ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.38; related statement: A/C.5/70/17)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/7/Add.38) on the Secretary-General's statement related to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/70/L.22.

The additional resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017 would amount to a total of \$968,900, under section 8, Legal affairs, and under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services (OCSS). The resources would provide for two new posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) to strengthen the capacity of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the Office of Legal Affairs, as well as for improvement to working conditions of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (see A/70/7/Add.38, para. 4).

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the establishment of the two posts (1 P-4 Programme Officer and 1 P-3 Legal Officer) and apply the vacancy rate of 50 per cent for the new Professional posts in the budget for the biennium 2016-2017. While the Committee understands the special technical needs of the Commission, it is of the view that the requirements of \$147,000 as requested should be prioritized. Furthermore, taking into account that provisions for minor alteration and improvements have been provided for section 29D, OCSS, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to absorb the additional requirements requested under section 29D (see A/70/7/Add.38, paras. 8-10).

Mr. Chairman,

I am going to touch upon the procedural issues related to the request for the above-mentioned resource requirements.

With regard to the new P-3 post requested to respond to the increased number of requests to the Division for additional outputs and the servicing of meetings, as outlined in resolution 69/292, the Advisory Committee recalls that during its recent consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 69/292 (A/70/543), the Secretary-General did not make any reference to these additional resource requirements in that report (see A/70/7/Add.25). The Committee stresses that the Secretary-General should have informed the General Assembly of the additional post requirements in his report on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 69/292.

With respect to improvements to address some of the Commission's immediate working space needs, given the nature of this additional resource request, the Committee is of the view that such resource requirements should have been requested in the context of the proposed programme budget, rather than through a General Assembly resolution which has financial implications and represents a charge against the contingency fund. The Committee is of the view that the established procedures related to requests for resource requirements do not appear to have been followed (see A/70/7/Add.38, para. 6).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 December 2015

**Open-ended Working Group on the Fourth Special Session
of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament**

**Programme budget implications of the amendment (A/70/L.26) to the decision
recommended in the report of the First Committee (A/70/460)**

(ACABQ report: A/70/7/Add.37; related statement: A/C.5/70/18)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the programme budget implications of the amendment (A/70/L.26) to the decision recommended in the report of the First Committee (A/70/460).

Pursuant to the draft decision as amended by document A/70/L.26, it is envisaged that the Open-ended Working Group would hold two additional substantive sessions of five days duration each in New York. The total additional conference-servicing requirements would amount to \$392,900.

The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft decision recommended by the First Committee, as amended by document A/70/L.26, additional resource requirements in the amount of \$392,900 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The amount of \$392,900 would require additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 December 2015

Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.39, related report A/70/589)

Mr Chairman,

With regard to the report on the revised estimates relating to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the Committee notes that the late submission of the report has impeded its ability to properly examine the Secretary-General’s proposals and to provide its observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly. The Committee is therefore recommending that the General Assembly authorise the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$7,547,300 in the first year of the biennium 2016-2017 in order to ensure that implementation of the related activities can commence from the beginning of January 2016. The Committee will revert to its consideration of the Secretary-General’s proposals during the course of its next session.