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Statement by Paul Hanna, Advisor for UN Management and Reform,
On Agenda Item 134: Revised Estimates for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
70th UN General Assembly
December 15, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary-General and Controller and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ for the presentation of their respective reports related to the revised estimates for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

My delegation strongly supports the framework for Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that were agreed to this summer. We further recognize the need for ambitious and timely action to advance these key agreements. However, what was clear when these agreements were adopted is that Member States had embraced a new way of addressing development needs by building upon country commitments and refining existing international architecture, including that of the UN. This new way of business requires considered and thoughtful responses regarding how to proceed to ensure results on the ground.

With this in mind, I would like to express my delegation's concern with the revised estimates presented today. Many ongoing processes related to the follow-up and review of the Addis and 2030 Agenda agreements have not concluded; yet there are a number of components in the revised estimates that pre-empt these Member States decisions. We therefore do not consider these presumptions to be an appropriate basis for seeking additional funding.

We further understood that a coordinated response on how the UN could best support these agreements would come after a thorough review by the Secretary General of existing structures within the UN. That review should consider whether resources currently being applied to advance the Millennium Development Goals and related objectives can be folded into new commitments that build on the previously existing commitments. Unfortunately, it appears to be 'business as usual' as the revised estimates do not appear to be based on credible analysis of how to effectively reprioritize existing resources. Nor do the estimates rest on a coherent assessment of how different parts of the UN are best placed to provide effective and efficient support to Member States and the range of development, humanitarian and financial stakeholders.

With these same concerns in mind, the ACABQ has provided recommendations on a possible way forward. We look forward to working with colleagues in the Fifth Committee on how best to address these issues.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.