

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1 December 2015

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2015 session

(ACABQ report A/70/7/Add.23; related report: A/70/430)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee (A/70/7/Add.23) on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2015 session held from 21 July 2014 to 23 July 2015.

The Secretary-General indicates in his report that two resolutions of the Council (resolutions 2015/30 and 2015/33) would give rise to net additional requirements in the amount of \$3,084,100 over and above the resources in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, and would therefore require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the General Assembly as a charge against the contingency fund.

The Secretary-General indicates that the implementation of resolution 2015/30 on the restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to be fit for the evolving post-2015 development agenda, would have financial implication under budget section 19 (Economic and social development in Asia and Pacific) amounting to \$1,503,400. The resolution would entail, inter alia, the establishment of a commission on energy and the creation of four posts (1 D-1, 2 P-4 and 1 P-3).

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed staffing changes for the implementation of resolution 2015/30. Regarding the non-post requirements, the Committee is of the view that a thirty per cent reduction to the \$40,000 requirement for consultants is warranted, as the new staff members should be in a position to perform some of the proposed consultants' functions.

With respect to resolution 2015/33 on the International arrangement on forests beyond 2015, the Secretary-General indicates that the resolution would entail financial implications in the amount of \$1,580,700 including \$1,299,100 under budget Section 9 (Economic and social affairs) and \$281,600 under Section 29D (Office of central support services).

The implementation of resolution 2015/33 would require the establishment of three professional posts (1 P-4 and 2 P-3) on a temporary basis until 2030. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the post requirements. Regarding non post requirements, the Committee is of the view that, as in the case of resolution 2015/30, a thirty per cent reduction to the \$80,000 requirement for consultants is warranted, as the new staff members should be able to perform some of the tasks assigned to consultants.

Overall Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an appropriation amounting to \$3,048,100 for the biennium 2016-2017 (\$1,491,400 arising from resolution 2015/30 and \$1,556,700 arising from resolution 2015/33) which would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.