

Statement by Mr. KO, Jaesin

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Fifth Committee of the 70th Session of the General Assembly

Item 134: Proposed Programme Budget; biennium 2016-2017

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<Check against Delivery>

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. I would first like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for introducing the 2016-17 biennium budget proposal. My thanks also go to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for presenting an informative analysis of the budget proposal. I also thank Mr. Gerard Biraud, the Inspector of Joint Inspection Unit and Mr. Ken Herman, Senior Advisor on Information Management Policy Coordination for their respective presentations.

2. As we all know, Member States have continued to experience financial constraints as a result of the challenging global economic situation. Likewise, the United Nations has also been requested to tighten its budgetary discipline under these circumstances. As such, it is now all the more pressing for the UN to implement its mandates in the most efficient and effective manner, especially, in view of the forecast of prolonged economic difficulties.
3. In this regard, my delegation recognizes the Secretary-General's painful exercise in implementing the mandates under these financially restrained circumstances. We also appreciate his tireless efforts in exploring various ways with the spirit of doing more with less and adopting many administrative reforms like Umoja, IPSAS, Mobility and Global Service Delivery in order to meet the expectation of the Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

4. With regard to the level of the next biennium budget, the Secretary-General has proposed 5.57 billion dollars (before recosting). This figure is slightly higher than the level of 2016-17 budget outline agreed by 5th committee last year and we highly appreciate of his effort to pursue the financial efficiency despite of the increase of new mandates. While commending the Secretary-General's achievement, we encourage the Secretariat to further these efforts, together with ensuring adequate and timely delivery of the mandates. Let me outline some points which my delegation deems important for the budget proposal.

5. First, my delegation emphasizes on the importance of budgeting based on the prioritization of the mandate and the performance of activities rather than incremental budgeting. The General Assembly recently adopted or will adopt significant resolutions, the financial resources of which are not included in this proposal before us. Those are 2030 development agenda, initiatives in the field of peace and security and resolutions adopted by Human Right Council. We will scrutinize, in due course, their effects on budget requirement, taking into account principles of efficiency, effectiveness and reprioritization.
6. Second, recosting has been a key element of the budget increase for past two decades. The General Assembly took a decision to stress the need for a comprehensive solution to the problem of recosting and to request the Secretary-General to take into account some improvements in the methodology. My delegation will address recosting for the second performance report of 2014-15 budget and for 2016-17 budget proposal in this context and a comprehensive manner.
7. Third, I would like to briefly comment on the need to comprehensively examine staffing requirements. As is well known, staff costs have been a driving force of the UN budget growth for a long time, occupying up to 70 percent of the total UN budget. My delegation welcomes that the Secretary-General has proposed around 60 posts frozen in consideration of efficiency gains from administrative reform like Umoja. However, we would like to

closely examine the whole staffing table in the respect of the comprehensive staffing review, with a view to securing sustainable efficiency gains for the future.

8. Finally, the importance of a continuous working process innovation cannot be overemphasized since the UN workload continues to grow amid a flurry of new and expanded mandates. We strongly support the Secretary-General's management reform initiatives such as Umoja, IPSAS, Mobility and Global Service Delivery Model and urge the Secretary-General to implement them in a timely and effective way. My delegation also sincerely looks forward to seeing the concrete benefits from these initiatives to be realized and duly reflected in the budget in terms of operational efficiency and effectiveness of the organization as well as budget savings.

Mr. Chairman,

9. To conclude, my delegation will engage constructively in the discussion of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, based on the comments made today.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.