

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

21 October 2015

Pattern of Conferences

(ACABQ report: A/70/432; related Secretary-General's report: A/70/122)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the pattern of conferences (A/70/432).

Mr. Chairman, the Advisory Committee's report addresses information relating to meetings management, integrated global management, matters relating to documentation and publications, and matters relating to translation and interpretation.

On meetings management, the Advisory Committee notes that the overall utilization factor for meetings with interpretation of a core sample of bodies that met in the four duty stations has improved to 86 per cent, and reiterates that information on utilization factors should include data based on actual occupancy against total capacity.

With respect to matters relating to documentation and publications, the Committee comments on multilingualism and digitization, including on the need for expediting the process of digitization of important older United Nations documents, as requested by the General Assembly.

Lastly, on matters relating to translation and interpretation, the Committee notes that the language services continue to have high vacancy rates, and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide a concrete proposal to address the vacancy situation and succession planning, particularly in the French Translation Service at Headquarters.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.