

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

21 March 2016

Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules

(ACABQ report A/70/789; related report: A/70/746)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/70/789) on the Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/70/746) issued in relation to resolution 70/244 of the General Assembly.

Staff Regulations 5.3 is proposed to be amended in order to discontinue accelerated home leave travel, except at category D and E duty stations that do not fall under the rest and recuperation framework, in accordance with paragraph 51, Section III of resolution 70/244.

The Advisory Committee considers that the amendment would be clearer and more specific if it were to provide, for example, that the Secretary-General may grant home leave every twelve months to eligible staff members, deployed within designated duty stations having the most difficult conditions of life and work.

Annex IV of the Staff Regulation is proposed to be amended to reflect the decision of the General Assembly, in paragraph 39 of section III of its resolution 70/244, to establish a threshold of five years of expatriate service as an eligibility requirement for the repatriation grant.

The Advisory Committee considers that Annex IV to the Staff Regulations would be clearer if, for example, the text were to mention that the repatriation grant shall be payable in principle to staff members who have completed at least five years of qualifying service. Qualifying service is defined in the amended Staff Rule 3.19, as five years or more of continuous service and residence away from the home country and the country of nationality.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.