

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

9 March 2017

Procurement activities in the United Nations Secretariat

(ACABQ report: A/71/823, related report: A/71/681)

Madam Chairperson,

The report of the Secretary-General provides updates on numerous procurement activities of the UN Secretariat. In the interest of time I will comment on the Advisory Committee's key observations and recommendations only.

The Advisory Committee looks forward to receiving the outcome of the on-going review being conducted by OCSS of the governance framework, organizational structure and distribution of procurement offices worldwide. It is of the view that any proposal made by the Secretary-General should seek to maximise efficiency gains and operational effectiveness while taking into account the specificities of individual offices/entities and their procurement needs. The Committee also expects any procurement service delivery proposals put forward to be fully coordinated with other initiatives underway, such as the supply chain management system.

With regard to regional service delivery, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a need for further explanations on the imbalance of resources referred to in the report of the Secretary-General as well as clarification on the underlying data analysis and methodology applied for estimating workloads related to global and local procurement.

With regard to the pilot project at Nairobi, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide in his next report an update on the results achieved as well as on the feasibility of the replication of the pilot at UNOG and UNOV.

With regard to the advantages and disadvantages of the RFP solicitation methodology for procurement of long-term aviation services, the Advisory Committee notes that the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General is of a preliminary nature only. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide further details to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.

The Advisory Committee has also recommended that the Secretary-General ensure that the Procurement Division is involved from the early stages of the launching and planning of all new missions in order to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement process and optimise the use of resources.

In addition, the Secretary-General should also be requested to provide in his next report further information on any standing administrative measures that may have been finalised for procurement, as well as details on the circumstances in which they are used and how their use is reported.

Madam Chairperson,

In its report, the Advisory Committee welcomes a number of initiatives such as the development of a joint shipping cell with WFP and the inclusion of procurement in the design of the Young Professionals Programme.

The Committee also welcomes progress reported as a result of the implementation of Umoja, including for instance, the elimination of legacy systems, the migration of vendor information to a single database for the Secretariat, and the publication of all awards over \$40,000 on the Procurement Division's website. The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to make better use of the data contained in Umoja to increase visibility and transparency into procurement activities as well as to improve procurement practices and operations.

Thank you Madam Chairperson