

**Statement of the Chairman**  
**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**6 March 2017**

**Status of implementation of the information and  
communications technology strategy for the United Nations**

*(ACABQ report A/71/785; related report A/71/400)*

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on status of the implementation of the ICT strategy, contained in document A/71/785.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the progress reported by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the ICT strategy, in particular in five areas:

- a) The issuance of the Secretary-General's bulletin on the organization of OICT, which has been due since many years;
- b) The improved collaboration between OICT and the Department of Field Support;
- c) The establishment of a single harmonized wide-area network for the United Nations Secretariat;
- d) The progress made in operationalizing the enterprise application centres and in replacing legacy applications with new, standard enterprise applications; and
- e) The inclusion of peacekeeping requirements in the five-year budget projection for the Secretariat.

Madam Chairperson,

With regard to organizational arrangements, the Advisory Committee expects all Secretariat departments and entities to fully comply with the ICT strategy of the United Nations, as approved by the General Assembly in section II of its resolution [69/262](#) as well as with all the provisions of the Secretary-General's bulletin on the organization of OICT ([ST/SGB/2016/11](#)). The Committee also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all budgets for all ICT activities are reviewed by OICT prior to their submission to OPPBA.

With regard to Umoja mainstreaming, the Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of achieving all the milestones as well as the need for strengthening of in-house capacity in order to ensure a smooth and timely transfer of responsibilities for the institutionalization of Umoja support.

With regard to business intelligence, the Advisory Committee considers timely access to accurate and reliable information to be a key benefit of Umoja and other ICT systems. It trusts that a detailed update on business intelligence and analytics will be provided in the next progress report.

With regard to information security and disaster recovery, the Advisory Committee trusts that the remaining activities can be completed in a timely manner so that the 10-point information security action plan can be implemented according to plan, namely that departments ensure that the necessary security reviews of their information systems are conducted and that mandatory security training is completed by all staff.

With regard to the Regional Technology Centres, the Committee is of the view that future progress reports should include a brief update on the achievements of the regional ICT services of DFS in order to provide a comprehensive picture of regional ICT activities.

With regard to the enterprise application centres, the Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue to further rationalize and reducing the number of the 1,000 applications that are expected to remain in 2020.

With regard to defragmentation and efforts underway to consolidate ICT capacities, the Advisory Committee stresses that cooperation and collaboration of the managers of all Secretariat entities is critical to overcome resistance, and to implement the ICT strategy as approved by the General Assembly. The Committee expects the Secretary-General to exercise strong leadership in this regard.

Finally Madam Chairperson,

The Advisory Committee welcomes the progress made in refining the analysis of the ICT workforce and providing more detailed baseline information, and encourages further refinement. In view of the ongoing defragmentation and consolidation of ICT resources, the Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of comprehensive, accurate, reliable and consistent baseline information which can be used to assess progress over time. The Committee is of the view that the baseline data should be further broken down by department or entity, category of personnel and functional area. An update of the expanded baseline information on the ICT workforce should be provided in future annual progress reports on the implementation of the ICT strategy.

Thank you Madam Chairperson