

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

9 December 2016

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster III: United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

(ACABQ report: A/71/595/Add.3; related reports: A/71/365/Add.3)

Madam Chairperson,

With respect to cluster III, the proposed resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017 for the 8 special political missions under cluster III are estimated at \$220.1 million reflecting an increase of \$28.6 million or 15 per cent compared with the resources approved for 2016

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed by the Secretary-General under cluster III, subject to its recommendations contained in the related paragraphs of its report and trusts that detailed information on the reductions arising from these recommendations will be provided to the General Assembly.

The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing proposals for UNOWAS, UNRCCA, CNMC, UNSCOL, UNOCA and UNIOGBIS.

As for UNSOM, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of 2 P-4 positions of Political Affairs Officers and 1 P-3 position of Human Rights Officer. The Committee recommends against establishing a second P-3 position of Human Rights Officer. The Committee also points out that the proposal to establish 8 positions of Radio Operators should have been submitted through the budget of UNSOS, rather than UNSOM and recommends against their establishment. However, the Committee considers that should the functions of Radio Operators be required more immediately, the Secretary-General may consider authorizing the use of GTA resources.

Coming to UNSMIL, the Advisory Committee was informed that the projected expenditures for 2016 were adjusted downward by a total of \$5.7 million, due to the low rate of utilization of resources reflecting the fact that the budget for 2016 was based on plans to return the mission to Tripoli. However, security conditions have prevented that move. As regards the staffing requirements, the Advisory Committee recommends the

application of 70 per cent vacancy rate for new international staff and 20 per cent delayed deployment factor for UN Guard Unit personnel. The Committee does not recommend the establishment of a P-3 backstopping position at DFS. Moreover, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General undertake a review of the organizational structure and staffing requirements of UNSMIL based on a workload analysis. As regards the proposed requirements for operational costs for UNSMIL, the Advisory Committee recommends a total reduction of \$3 million to the proposed increase of \$15.8 million.

Thank you Madam Chairperson