

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

**28 October 2016**

**Pattern of conferences**

*ACABQ report: A/71/549, Report of the Secretary-General: A/71/116*

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Pattern of conferences.

While the utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities for Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Vienna continues to be above 80 per cent, the Advisory Committee recommends that information on actual occupancy against existing meeting capacity is included in all future reports on the Pattern of conferences.

Matters relating to the accessibility to conference services and facilities are of special interest not only to the Advisory Committee but, I believe, to all of us. The Secretary-General recently submitted his report entitled Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities<sup>1</sup> for consideration of the Third Committee. As these matters may have administrative and budgetary implications, the Advisory Committee trusts that any related requirements will be submitted for the consideration of the Fifth Committee at the appropriate time.

The digitization of older United Nations documents is an ongoing activity and the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal to transfer the project in full to the Department of Public Information and to include future updates under the agenda item entitled "Questions relating to information".

And as my last point, Madam Chairperson, I would like to highlight the efforts made by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in promoting outreach programmes, in particular with respect to reaching out to and identifying qualified language staff from underrepresented regions through the use of social media and taking advantage of innovative tools for remote meeting, training and testing.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson

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<sup>1</sup> A/71/344 and Corr. 1)