

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

9 December 2016

Combatting sexual exploitation and abuse: Report of the Secretary-General

(ACABQ report: A/71/643; Secretary-General's report: A/71/97)

Madam Chairperson,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/71/643) on the report of the Secretary-General on Combatting sexual exploitation and abuse.

The report of the Secretary-General provides details on the initiatives undertaken across the United Nations system to combat sexual exploitation and abuse and an update to Member States on the progress made since the issuance of his report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/70/729).

The Committee welcomes the appointment of the Special Coordinator to address the issue of system-wide coherence. Nevertheless, the Committee notes the continued fragmentation of the response of the various United Nations entities dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse matters and the need for a clearer and more coherent framework for preventive and responsive actions and accountability on the part of United Nations system entities.

The Advisory Committee reiterates again its strong support for the implementation of the United Nations stated policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and is convinced that progress in this regard can only be achieved with strong, sustained leadership on this matter at the highest level of the Organization across all United Nations system entities.

The Advisory Committee considers that after more than a decade of incremental steps taken to address the matter of sexual exploitation and abuse, and in view of the persistent and egregious nature of related allegations, the General Assembly may wish to invite the Secretary-General as Chair of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) to conduct a system-wide assessment of current capacities and future requirements concerning issues relating to sexual exploitation and abuse and the Organisation's response to them and to develop further proposals thereon for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson