

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

18 December 2017

**Situation of human rights in Myanmar
Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48**

(ACABQ report A/72/7/Add.33; related statement A/C.5/72/13)

Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

(ACABQ report A/72/7/Add.32; related report A/C.5/72/19)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/72/7/Add.33) on the Secretary-General's statement related to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48.

The Advisory Committee notes that resource requirements amounting to \$1,541,100 net would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018 for the Office of the Special Envoy on Myanmar, should the General Assembly approve the draft resolution.

The Advisory Committee recommends an appropriation of \$853,800 for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 for the Special Envoy, a reduction of \$687,300 in the Secretary-General's proposal. The Advisory Committee recommends that resource requirements for field-based staff and field-based operational costs in 2018 be recalculated using standard rates for Bangkok and expects that the standard budgetary policy on vacancy rates will also be followed. The Committee expected that the Secretary-General would have provided more detailed information on major budgetary assumptions used in the preparation of cost estimates and trusts that such assumptions will be outlined in his budget submission for 2019.

The Committee also recommends some reduction in the staffing requirements for staff both in the field and in New York for 2018. Regarding operational requirements, the Advisory Committee also recommends reductions in the resources for consultants.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to turn to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/71/L.19 on the investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him. Taking into account the pattern of expenditure for 2016-2017, as well as the activities to be implemented in 2018-2019, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed requirements be reduced by 10 per cent, or \$35,700, from \$357,300 to \$321,600.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

18 December 2017

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: regional offices, offices in support of political processes and other missions
United Nations Support Mission in Libya**

(ACABQ report: A/72/7/Add.18; related report: A/72/371/Add.8)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/72/7/Add.18) on the Secretary General's resource proposals for 2018 for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya under thematic cluster III.

Regarding staffing requirements, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the staffing resources for the mission other than one position of Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5) in the Department of Political Affairs. Concerning vacant positions of two years or longer, the Advisory Committee reiterates that, as a matter of overall policy, the continuing requirement for such positions should be reviewed and justifications provided for their retention. Otherwise, they should be proposed for abolishment. The Committee, therefore recommends the abolishment of three positions. The Committee also continues to stress the need for the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to strengthen the

Mission's national staffing complement by nationalizing positions, specifically once the Mission begins the process of its rotational presence and final relocation to Libya.

As regards operational costs, the Advisory Committee notes that the requirements for additional resources for consultants does not appear justified given the security situation in Libya and the proposed change of duty station for 119 positions from Tripoli to Tunis. The Committee recommends maintaining the resources at the level of the approved budget for 2017 under consultants. In terms of maintenance services, the Committee is concerned that the costs under the current rental contract may not be fully justified and recommends a review of the contractual provisions based on the needs of UNSMIL prior to the expiration of the existing contract. The Committee also notes the need for the Mission to keep the ground transportation requirements under review given the gradual phased rotational return of the Mission to Libya.

As regards information technology, the Committee recommends a reduction in the amount of \$25,700 and provides comments and recommendations regarding official travel in its main report on special political missions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

18 December 2017

Limited budgetary discretion

(ACABQ report: A/72/7/Add.30, related Secretary-General's report: A/72/497)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/72/7/Add.30) on the limited budgetary discretion mechanism.

The discretionary mechanism - first authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/246 - has been utilized on nine occasions over the course of four bienniums, between 2006 and 2011, and 2016-2017. The mechanism was not used during the bienniums 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.

The Advisory Committee notes that only an amount of \$455,300 has been utilized under this mechanism over the past three bienniums, while the discretionary authority granted to the Secretary-General amounts to \$6 million per biennium. The Committee continues to note that the ceiling for the mechanism of \$20 million within a given biennium has never been reached since this experimental mechanism was first approved.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/248, requested a comprehensive justification for the retention of the discretionary mechanism beyond 2016-2017. The

Advisory Committee notes that no such justification is provided in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/497). The Committee regrets that the request of the General Assembly has not been met.

It is stated in the report of the Secretary-General that the proposal to continue the discretionary mechanism for the biennium 2018-2019 would be subject to the Assembly's decision on the management reform proposals of the Secretary-General. The related recommendations of the Advisory Committee are contained in paragraphs 67 and 68 of its report (A/72/7/Add.24).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Cotéjese con la exposición del orador

Declaración de la Presidencia

**Comisión Consultiva en Asuntos Administrativos y de Presupuesto
(CCAAP)**

18 de diciembre de 2017

Facultades discrecionales limitadas para la ejecución del presupuesto

(Informe de la CCAAP: [A/72/7/Add.30](#), informe conexo del Secretario General: [A/72/497](#))

Señor Presidente:

Me complace presentar el informe de la Comisión Consultiva ([A/72/7/Add.30](#)) sobre las facultades discrecionales limitadas para la ejecución del presupuesto.

El mecanismo de facultades discrecionales, autorizado por primera vez por la Asamblea General en su resolución [60/246](#), se ha utilizado en nueve ocasiones a lo largo de cuatro bienios, entre 2006 y 2011 y en 2016 y 2017. El mecanismo no se utilizó durante los bienios 2012-2013 y 2014-2015.

La Comisión Consultiva observa que en los últimos tres bienios solo se ha utilizado una suma de 455.300 dólares con arreglo a este mecanismo, mientras que las facultades discrecionales otorgadas al Secretario General ascienden a 6 millones de dólares por bienio. La Comisión sigue observando que, desde que este mecanismo experimental fue aprobado por primera vez, nunca se ha alcanzado su límite máximo, fijado en 20 millones de dólares por bienio.

Señor Presidente:

La Asamblea General, en su resolución [70/248](#), pidió una justificación detallada para mantener el mecanismo de facultades discrecionales más allá de 2016-2017. La Comisión Consultiva observa que esa justificación no se ha proporcionado en el informe del Secretario General ([A/72/497](#)). La Comisión lamenta que no se haya atendido esa solicitud de la Asamblea General.

En el informe del Secretario General se señala que la propuesta relativa al mantenimiento en el bienio 2018-2019 del mecanismo de facultades discrecionales estaría sujeta a la decisión de la Asamblea acerca de las propuestas del Secretario General sobre la reforma de la gestión. Las recomendaciones conexas de la Comisión Consultiva figuran en los párrafos 67 y 68 de su informe ([A/72/7/Add.24](#)).

Gracias, señor Presidente.