

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 March 2019

Procurement activities in the United Nations Secretariat

(ACABQ report A/73/790; related report: A/73/704)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/790) on the Procurement activities in the United Nations Secretariat.

At a time when both a new integrated procurement structure and an enhanced delegation of authority are being put in place, the Committee is of the view that a strong and operational accountability framework is urgently needed. Therefore, the Advisory Committee considers that the role of DMSPC in monitoring and evaluating the procurement function should be further defined and operationalized in order to strengthen the compliance and accountability mechanisms.

The Committee notes that the proposal to establish one or more new procurement centre(s) is under discussion within the Secretariat and expects that if the Secretary-General presents a related proposal to the General Assembly, he will present full justification including analysis on the placement, functions, measurable benefits and financial implications.

The Advisory Committee continues to note the efforts made to promote business opportunities for vendors from least developed countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to explore additional innovative ways to promote procurement from these countries.

In terms of cooperation in procurement, the Secretary-General's report underlines the role of the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management in promoting cooperation among United Nations entities and mentions promising areas of collaboration including in the procurement of vehicles. The Advisory Committee continues to emphasize the need for intensifying system-wide collaboration and cooperation on procurement matters.

Thank you, Madam Chair.