

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

11 March 2019

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 II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms
Panel of Experts on Somalia**

(ACABQ report A/73/498/Add.7; related report: A/73/352/Add.7)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/73/498/Add.7) on the Panel of Experts on Somalia which was established by the Security Council resolution 2444 (2018) for the period from 14 November 2018 to 15 December 2019.

With regard to travel, in view of the fact that the compliance rate of the Monitoring Group on Eritrea and Somalia with the 16-day advance booking policy was only 20 per cent, the Committee expects that the Panel will make every effort to increase the compliance rate with the advance booking policy. Overall, the Committee considers that the requirements for the travel of the Panel of Experts are not always fully justified. The Committee therefore recommends a 5 per cent reduction to the proposed requirements for the official travel of the experts in 2019.

In terms of ground transportation, considering that the number of drivers has been reduced from three to two and the number of experts from eight to six compared with the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, the Committee recommends a commensurate reduction of \$3,000 to the proposed requirements under ground transportation.

Subject to its observations and recommendations, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the proposals of the Secretary-General for the period from 14 November 2018 to 31 December 2019.

Thank you, Madam Chair.