Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1 April 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 III

United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement

(ACABQ report: A/73/498/Add.8); (Related report of the Secretary-General: A/73/352/Add.8)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/498/Add.8) on the estimates for the United Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA).

The Advisory Committee recalls that it authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed \$8.2 million to meet the most immediate requirements for UNMHA for the period from 16 January to 31 March 2019.

Given the challenges of staffing a new mission in a complex and evolving field environment, and the slow pace of deployment thus far, the Committee is not convinced that the proposed deployment targets underpinning the present funding request are achievable. The Committee, therefore, urges the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to expedite

deployments and recommends that more realistic vacancy factors be presented in the forthcoming budget submission for UNMHA.

The Committee trusts that the budget submission will also contain information regarding the financial performance of the Mission thus far and reflect proposals based on the actual experience on the ground.

Taking into account the slow pace of deployment and other observations contained in its report, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNMHA in an amount not to exceed \$15.6 million for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2019.

The Committee stresses that this recommendation is without prejudice to any comments and recommendations the Committee may eventually make on the proposed structure, staffing and other resource requirements in the context of the budget submission for the Mission.

Thank you, Madam Chair.