

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

6 May 2019

Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

(ACABQ report: A/73/828; Related report: A/73/744)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Regarding the measures to strengthen the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse, the Committee notes the efforts of the Secretary-General to increase awareness, engagement and commitment and that as a progress report, it contains no specific proposals with additional budgetary implications.

The Committee notes the efforts made to adopt a whole-of-system approach to addressing the matter of sexual exploitation and abuse and trusts that additional efforts will be made through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. As regards entities other than peacekeeping missions, the Committee notes with concern the significant increases in reported cases and encourages the Secretary-General to undertake further preventive efforts. In this regard the Committee notes the development of the implementing partner protocol.

The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly has reaffirmed the collective and unanimous position that one substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse

is one case too many and its commitment to the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse throughout the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes. The Committee reiterates its view that more focus should be given to the nature of the allegations, in particular those egregious cases, rather than the number of allegations alone.

With regard to non-United Nations forces and personnel, the Committee notes the need to align the standards applicable to United Nations uniformed personnel and that greater efforts are necessary to apply those standards equally to non-United Nations international forces.

The Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General, once more, does not provide any information on human and financial resources dedicated to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the Secretariat and across the United Nations system. The Committee is of the view that further efforts need to be undertaken to identify the system-wide resources dedicated to this matter.

Thank you, Madam Chair.