

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

13 May 2019

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, financing for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 of the support account for peacekeeping operations

(ACABQ report: A/73/849; Related reports: A/73/661/Add.1, A/73/793)

Madam Chair,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the support account for peacekeeping operations. I will summarize some of the Advisory Committee's key observations and recommendations.

Under corporate initiatives, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of the amount related to the global shared service centres proposal, considering that the General Assembly has deferred its consideration of this agenda item. The Committee also recommends reductions under Umoja maintenance and support costs, staff costs and after-service health insurance (ASHI), as the Committee is not convinced that the proposed increases are fully justified. With respect to the Secretary-General's request for ASHI in the amount of \$6 million, the proposal is made in the event that approved resources for 2018/19 are not sufficient, and the amount would have to be deferred and charged to the 2019/20 period. Noting that it is presently unclear if the proposed amount of \$6.0 million would be required, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the proposal is justified at this stage and therefore recommends a reduction in that amount.

Madam Chair,

The Advisory Committee makes specific recommendations on the post and non-post resources under the support account by department or office. Under post resources, the Committee recommends against one proposed post and 5 proposed conversions from general temporary assistance positions to posts. The Committee also recommends three post abolishments.

Under operational costs, the Committee recommends reductions under individual departments or offices by object of expenditure, including consultants and consulting services, official travel, facilities and infrastructure, communications and information technology, and other supplies, services and equipment.

The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the actions to be taken by the General Assembly for the 2017/18 and 2019/20 periods are set out in section V of its report.

Thank you, Madam Chair.