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**Statement of the Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**11 November 2019**

**Financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors  
for the period ended 31 December 2018**

*(ACABQ report A/74/528; related reports: A/74/202, A/74/5 (Vol. I), A/74/5 (Vol. III and Corr.1) and (Vol. IV), A/75/5/ Add.1-12 and Add.15-16, A/74/153, A/74/177, A/73/323 and A/73/323/Add.1)*

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report (A/74/528) on the financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors for the period ended 31 December 2018 as set out in annex I of the report.

The Advisory Committee commends the Board of Auditors for the continued high quality of its reports and welcomes the fact that all entities under review have again received unqualified audit opinions from the Board of Auditors.

The Committee notes the conclusion of the Board that the overall financial positions of the audited entities remained sound as at 31 December 2018. The Committee observes, however, that the Board noted the low liquidity in the regular budget in 2018.

Concerning the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board, the Committee notes with concern the decline in the overall implementation rate of the audited entities and recalls that in its resolution 73/268, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the funds and programmes of the United Nations to ensure full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors.

Mr. Chairman,

In term of specific cross-cutting matters, the Advisory Committee concurs with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors regarding treasury and reserve management and reiterates its previous recommendations on these matters which have been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/268. The Committee also highlights and concurs with the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on a number of other issues including fraud-related matters, Procurement, management of implemented partners and the use of consultants.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.