

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

17 December 2019

Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/74/L.20

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

Revised estimates for the International Residual Mechanism

for Criminal Tribunals: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

(ACABQ report: A/74/7/Add.30,29 & 31; related Secretary-General's statement: A/C.5/74/13,14, A/74/585 & 586)

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him.

Regarding the request for resources related to the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of \$145,700 would be required under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination of the proposed programme budget for 2020, representing a charge against the contingency fund.

Mr Chairman,

Turning to the Contingency Fund, the Advisory Committee notes that the potential new charges against the contingency fund exceed the approved level of the contingency fund by almost 300 per cent. The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the contingency fund is

an essential budgetary instrument for addressing additional resource requirements and emphasizes the need to adhere to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 on its use. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider the potential charges related to new and expanded mandates against the contingency fund, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, and offer appropriate guidance to the Secretary-General accordingly.

The Advisory Committee further recommends that the General Assembly approve the Secretary-General's proposal that, for the programme budget for 2021, the level of the contingency fund be established at 0.75 per cent of the approved programme budget for the period 2020.

Mr Chairman,

With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation regarding the proposed programme budget for 2020, the Advisory Committee notes that the recosting was prepared using expenditure analyses based on data gathered in Umoja to improve the assumptions applied to the recosting parameters. The Advisory Committee notes this positive development and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to refine his analyses.

The Advisory Committee did not receive the advance version of the reports and some responses to its questions in sufficient time to allow for a detailed examination of their content prior to the finalization of its report. The Committee has therefore requested the Secretary-General to provide further clarification on a number of elements to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of reports of the Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr Chairman