

Statement of the Chairman

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

15 October 2019

Estimates in respect of special political missions

Thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys, advisers and representatives of the Secretary-General

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

(ACABQ reports: A/74/7/Add.2, 3 and 5; related reports: A/74/6 (Sect. 3)/Add.2, 3 and 5)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's reports on the Secretary-General's resource proposals for 2020 for the special political missions under thematic clusters I, II and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information on expenditures for 2019 as well as, long-vacant positions proposed for retention and their recruitment status will be provided to the General Assembly. In addition, the Committee expects that the recruitment will be completed without further delay for positions encumbered by staff members in receipt of a special post allowance for extended periods.

The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on other cross-cutting issues will be contained in its forthcoming main report (A/74/7/Add.1).

Mr. Chairman,

For the missions of thematic cluster I, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed by the Secretary-General, subject to its recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of its report. Those recommendations relate to proposed staffing requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, and proposed operational costs, including consultants, for four missions (Offices of the Special Advisers to the Secretary-General on Cyprus and on the Prevention of Genocide, and Offices of the Personal Envoys of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and for Yemen). The Committee trusts that detailed information on the reductions arising from its recommendations will be provided to the General Assembly.

For the missions of thematic cluster II, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed by the Secretary-General for 2020.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning now to the report of the Advisory Committee on the estimates in respect of special political missions on the UNAMA.

The Advisory Committee recommends reductions to the proposed budget of UNAMA, as some underexpenditure has occurred in the past, as well as during the current year, under operational costs, specifically under official travel, facilities and infrastructure, ground transportation, communications and information technology, and other supplies and equipment. The Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated information on UNAMA's expenditures for 2019 to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.

The Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts taken by UNAMA to review and adjust its staffing needs as a result of the implementation of the reforms of the Resident Coordinator system and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/279. Related comments and recommendations will be provided in the Committee's main report on the estimates in respect of special political missions (A/74/7/Add.1).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
