

**Statement of the Chairman**

**Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

**13 November 2019**

**Pattern of conferences**

*(ACABQ report: A/74/538; related Secretary-General's report: A/74/32)*

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to introduce the Advisory Committee's report on the Pattern of conferences.

In terms of the Secretary-General's proposals, the Committee notes the decentralized model and trusts that in terms of the delegation of authority, clear indicators of accountability will be established in a framework of key performance indicators for the efficient use of resources and effective implementation of mandates.

As regards staffing, the Committee notes the status of the vacancies and encourages the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts are filled expeditiously. The Committee also notes the efforts made with the internship programme and remote practicum agreements

with partner universities and encourages the Department to make further efforts as regards the geographical diversity of the language interns. The Committee notes the outreach efforts in terms of addressing the gap of qualified candidates from Africa and Latin America and encourages the Department to make further efforts in order to increase the geographical diversity of language staff. The Committee welcomes the further development and use of remote testing as a recruitment tool and trusts that the geographical diversity of the language staff will be increased.

The Committee also acknowledges the continued efforts of the Department regarding accessibility.

Thank you, Mr Chairman