

Mr. Chairperson, Carlos Ruiz Massieu,  
Distinguished members of the ACABQ,

Mr. Zhang Wanhai  
(Mr. Ye)

Pavel. 21/24/22

Thank you very much for this opportunity to meet informally.  
I appreciate the work of your Committee and your  
contribution to the management of the Organization.  
You know better than anyone that negotiations over  
the resources and administrative issues are often difficult.  
But thanks to your expertise and engagement, we have been  
able to make continued progress towards our shared goals.

slotting time

I strongly believe in ensuring that we have the resources necessary to deliver on the mandates given to us by Member States. However, I also strongly believe in the need to practice budgetary discipline, and to utilize the resources entrusted to us by Member States in the most effective and efficient manner possible. For that reason, I am deeply grateful for your expertise and contribution towards that goal.

Together, we have worked together to achieve a major transformation in how the United Nations does business.

*Job Network Board  
Special Contact Panel*

Just over the past few years, we have carried out major reforms through Umoja and the implementation of IPSAS. Earlier this month we also saw a historic decision when the General Assembly adopted the managed mobility framework. I know that you had some reservations on this proposal. However, I am convinced that its implementation will enable the Organization to better manage our most precious resource – our staff. In so doing, it is my firm belief that not only will staff have a more rewarding career experience, we will also have a more dynamic and truly global Secretariat.

**In your current session, I know that you have focussed mainly on providing guidance to support the requirements for our life-saving peacekeeping operations. I know that there are some concerns about the growing level of these requirements. However, the growing demands for United Nations peacekeeping must also be seen as a vote of confidence in the value of our work. With your help, we can meet these demands effectively and efficiently and, in the process, help create lasting stability in troubled parts of the world.**

**I look forward to our discussion. Let me just close my brief remarks by reiterating my full confidence that we will continue joining forces to advance our common goals. This informal lunch provides an excellent forum for us to exchange views on how best to help create a United Nations that it ready and able to meet the great challenges of our times.**

**Thank you.**

**[END]**

## ACABQ GENERAL

- I appreciate the ACABQ's independent and expert advice to Member States. Your advice aids in furthering our joint goal of a strengthened, effective and efficient United Nations that we have been building together over the last several years.
- The Secretariat stands ready to support the Committee and I look forward to your expert advice and guidance.
- I joined all of you in mourning the passing earlier this year of ACABQ member Mr. Zhang Wanhai, who had proudly served on this body starting in 2011.

## **TRANSFORMATION OF UN BUSINESS PRACTICES**

- With your support, we are currently undergoing major business transformation efforts across the Organisation.
- Following on the momentum created by Umoja and IPSAS, the General Assembly has just this month endorsed the career development and managed mobility framework. This was a historic decision for the Organization.

•Even though we did not see eye to eye on all the issues I want to thank ACABQ's constructive engagement on this matter. I look forward to a continued open dialogue with the ACABQ and Member States as we prepare to launch the new framework in 2016.

•This framework will allow us to manage our most precious resource – our staff – far more strategically than we do today and I firmly believe that it will enable us to better deliver worldwide on the mandates Member States entrust to the United Nations.



•In the coming months we will be developing detailed procedures for the Job Network Boards and Special Constraints Panel, as well as working with Umoja to improve our ability to capture and analysis data in the future.

We will be reporting to the General Assembly during the 69th Session on the progress made towards implementation.

•Over the years the Committee has consistently provided supportive and pragmatic recommendations to the General Assembly which have also informed and directed our own proposals.

- Moving forward into the second resumed session, we hope to build upon lessons learned and maintain this balance.

## **PEACEKEEPING REQUIREMENTS**

- I would like to thank the Committee for its ongoing work and support for peacekeeping requirements.

I look forward to your expert guidance on these matters.

- As you are already aware, the Secretariat is working against a backdrop of growing operational demand.

• While we are very much aware that we are living in a climate of financial austerity, the total peacekeeping resources required will most likely go beyond \$8 billion for the 2014/15 period with the recent approval of a new peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA, and the expected change in mandate in the UN Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS.

•We are committed to making the absolute best use of the resources that are entrusted to us and to deliver services in the most efficient and effective way.

I count on your continuing help in this effort.

•I understand that the modalities and financing of inter-mission cooperation have generated a great deal of discussion in the Committee. Your support would be appreciated to ensure that such short-term arrangements are allowed to continue as this is an important operational tool.

• **Rates of reimbursement for troops will be considered in the second resumed session. In the past, discussions on this issue, which is important for Member States, have been lengthy and difficult. We trust that the guidance of this Committee will enable the Assembly to come to a conclusion on the issue of revised rates for troop reimbursements.**

## **SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

- I am aware of the concerns which the Chairman has raised on the Committee's behalf regarding the matter of improving the timeliness of documents submitted for the consideration of Member States.

I can assure you that this is an issue which we take very seriously across all departments and offices of the Secretariat and I am grateful to you for raising it.

- There are a number of factors at play here, including the lead time for review and finalization of reports for submission.

- I am encouraged to note that despite a steady increase in the volume of reporting requirements for the Fifth Committee, over the last six years we have improved from 66 percent compliance with slotting dates in 2008-2009, to 80 percent in 2012-2013, and 90 percent so far in 2014. While we strive for 100 percent compliance with slotting dates, I hope you will agree this does demonstrate our commitment towards this goal.

•Our efforts to submit reports earlier could be jeopardized if new reporting requirements are created during the course of Fifth Committee deliberations or by other new mandates which may necessitate different timelines for the preparation of reports. By its nature, when the United Nations responds to our mandates, this often results in reporting cycles with many exceptions to the norm.

•In order to continue to improve the pattern of submissions, the Department of Management is reviewing the structure for planning, preparation, and clearance of reports across departments.



•As a result we will aim to better coordinate their timely submission, and ensure that the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies may conduct their work with due effectiveness and efficiency. Please be assured of my commitment to this important matter. I will continue to keep you apprised of ongoing progress in this regard.

**[END]**

Lunch with

ACABQ members

23/04

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(Mr. Ye)

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