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Summary record of the 11th meeting

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Chair: Mr. Mavroyiannis (Cyprus)
*Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Ms. Maciel

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chair** said that he wished to draw attention to the unprecedentedly high number of requests by Member States for the provision of supplementary information in writing during the current session. While it was the right of Member States to request such information and an increase in the number of such requests had been expected as the Committee was deliberating on an annual budget for the first time, it was worrying that the Secretariat had received more than twice as many questions – over 1,000 – as on the previous biennial programme budget proposal, along with more than 200 questions on non-budget items. Responding to Member States' requests in writing placed an enormous burden on the Secretariat and prevented it from replying in a timely manner to questions on other matters from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. That, in turn, delayed the submission of the Advisory Committee's reports and the Committee's own deliberations. To ensure that the Committee made effective use of its time and completed its work within the scheduled time frame, delegations were urged to put their questions orally during information consultations and accept oral answers to the extent possible, bearing in mind that they could reserve the right to submit additional paragraphs to a draft resolution already under consideration upon receiving further substantive information from the Secretariat.

Agenda item 135: Proposed programme budget for 2020 *(continued)*

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session (A/74/7/Add.12 and A/74/347)

2. **Mr. Ramanathan** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session (A/74/347), said that the report provided information on the budgetary impact of resolution 2019/32, entitled "Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti", and resolution 2019/3, entitled "Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020". The resource requirements arising from the adoption of resolution 2019/32, amounting to \$44,900 for 2020, would be accommodated from within the overall resources under section 9, Economic and Social Affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020. Regarding resolution 2019/3, the additional costs of hosting the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

in Doha in 2021 would be met by the host Government. No additional appropriation was therefore being sought.

3. **Ms. Maciel** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/74/7/Add.12), said that the Advisory Committee had no objection to the Secretary-General's proposal to cover the resource requirements of \$44,900 arising from the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/32 from within the overall resources under section 9 of the proposed programme budget for 2020. With regard to resolution 2019/3, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha in 2021.

4. **Ms. Tarbush** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations must be supported by adequate funding so that the Organization had the financial and human resources required to deliver the results expected by Member States.

5. The Group welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 2019/32, in which the Council had decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2020 session. It appreciated the support provided by the Secretary-General to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and commended the continued cooperation among United Nations entities in Haiti. The Group supported the provision of the resources required to finance the implementation of the resolution and took note of the Secretary-General's proposal in that regard. Regarding resolution 2019/3, the Group noted with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Qatar to host the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha in 2021 and meet the associated costs, as well as its announcement of a contribution towards the costs of the preparatory process for the Conference.

Agenda item 146: Administration of justice at the United Nations *(continued)* (A/C.5/74/10)

6. **The Chair** drew attention to a letter dated 12 November 2019 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee, transmitting a letter from the Chair of the Sixth Committee concerning agenda item 146, Administration of justice at the United Nations (A/C.5/74/10).

Agenda item 115: Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (*continued*)

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions (*continued*) ([A/74/102/Add.1](#))

7. **The Chair** drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General referring to General Assembly decision 74/406, whereby the Assembly had appointed five members to the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2020 and postponed to a later date the appointment of one member to fill the remaining vacancy ([A/74/102/Add.1](#)).

8. The Government of Mauritania had nominated Mr. El Ghaouth, whose nomination had been endorsed by the Group of African States, to fill the vacancy for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2020.

9. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend, by acclamation, the candidate's appointment.

10. *Mr. El Ghaouth (Mauritania), for the African States, was recommended by acclamation for appointment to the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2020.*

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.