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Chair: Mr. Kridelka (Belgium)
*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Bachar Bong

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

Agenda item 138: Proposed programme budget for 2023 (continued)

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (A/77/7/Add.7 and A/77/346)

1. **Mr. Mourato Gordo** (Officer-in-Charge, Office of Human Resources), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and President and judges of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (A/77/346), said that part one of the report was focused on the salaries and other conditions of service for the members of the Court and for the President and judges of the Mechanism and had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/258, in which the Assembly had decided to re-establish a three-year cycle for the review of the conditions of service and compensation for those officials. Part two contained information on the refined review of the pension scheme options for the members of the Court and for the President of the Mechanism, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/253 B.

2. In part one, the Secretary-General proposed no changes to the current conditions of service for the members of the Court and for the President and judges of the Mechanism. There would therefore be no financial implications under the programme budget for 2023. Part two contained a response to the request by the General Assembly for a refined review of the pension scheme options for the members of the Court and for the President of the Mechanism, taking into account considerations such as: the possibility of raising the normal retirement age of the members of the Court to 65 years; focusing on defined benefit schemes; the possibility of introducing into the schemes a contribution factor; scenarios incorporating grandfathering entitlements for current participants; other scenarios reflecting strict equal treatment of all members of the Court; possible arrangements for a transition to the new scheme as proposed, if needed; and projected estimated costs to the Organization for each option, compared with the existing pension scheme. As specified by the Assembly, the review also took into account the integrity of the Statute of the Court and other relevant statutory provisions, the universal character of the Court and the unique nature of its

membership, and the principles of independence and equality. Updated information was included on the estimated cash flows related to the projected benefits for the pension scheme options up to 2061, along with some of the arguments of the Court in favour of preserving the existing pension scheme.

3. Under Article 32 of the Statute of the Court, the salaries, allowances and compensation of the members of the Court could not be decreased during their term of office. Therefore, any changes to the pension scheme that might be approved by the General Assembly as a result of the current review would not affect the pensions of active or retired judges if those changes were less favourable than the existing arrangements. In accordance with previous practice, a draft version of the current report (A/77/346) had been shared with the Court and the Mechanism, and their comments and suggestions had been incorporated into the final version as much as possible. The Court had expressed a strong preference for retaining the existing pension scheme, which it had deemed to be largely satisfactory and in accordance with its Statute and the principles of equality and independence. The General Assembly was invited to take note of the report.

4. **Mr. Bachar Bong** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/77/7/Add.7), said that, in his report (A/77/346), the Secretary-General provided information on the comprehensive review of the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the Court and for the President and judges of the Mechanism. The Secretary-General proposed no changes to the current remuneration system and other conditions of service, and indicated that the next comprehensive review would be conducted at the eightieth session of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly maintain the current remuneration system and other conditions of service for the members of the Court and for the President and judges of the Mechanism.

5. Part two of the Secretary-General's report set out three pension scheme options for the judges. The Court had expressed a strong preference for option C, which was to retain the existing scheme. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee had been provided with details on a variation presented under option B whereby lump-sum payments would be used to purchase annuities for retiring judges and had been informed that those details had not been considered by the Court. The Advisory Committee recommended that the existing pension scheme of the judges be maintained. It also recommended that the General Assembly request the

Secretary-General to continue to refine the review of the pension scheme, including the possibility under option B to use the lump sum to purchase an annuity on the open market from a life insurer, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its eightieth session.

6. **Mr. Durrani** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the work of the Court and the Mechanism was essential to the fulfilment of the Organization's mandates within a framework of justice, reliability and impartiality.

7. The Group welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the conditions of service for members of the Court and the President and judges of the Mechanism (A/77/346). Since the Fifth Committee had last addressed that topic, at its seventy-fourth session, a number of improvements had been made to the conditions of service of those officials. Specifically, the revised education grant scheme for staff members in the Professional and higher categories, which had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/244, had been extended to the members of the Court and to the President of the Mechanism. In addition, the Assembly had decided to update the wording of the travel and subsistence regulations applicable to the members of the Court and to the President of the Mechanism in line with the new relocation package for staff in the Professional and higher categories, which had been approved by the Assembly in the same resolution.

8. A number of retirement benefits design options, including the option of purchasing an annuity on the open market, had been submitted for the Committee's consideration, following the conduct of a refined review of the pension scheme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/253 B. The Group noted that that review had been conducted mainly with in-house expertise and encouraged the continued use of such expertise whenever possible.

9. The Group supported the principle, enshrined in the statutes of the Court and the Tribunals, that the judges' salaries and allowances should be fixed by the General Assembly. It was also of the view that equality among judges was a basic principle of the system of international adjudication of disputes among States.

Construction and property management

Progress on the renovation of the North Building at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago (A/77/7/Add.8 and A/77/315)

10. **Ms. Costa** (Director, Finance Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the renovation of the North Building at the

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago (A/77/315), said that the report contained an update on progress made on the project since the previous progress report (A/76/323) and on steps taken to achieve a net zero building, as a landmark example of the contributions of ECLAC to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. The current progress report (A/77/315) also contained an explanation of the reasons for the cancellation of the tender for the general contractor service contract for the main renovation works, and of the steps taken by ECLAC to launch a rebidding tendering exercise using a multistage request for proposals methodology. That exercise was advancing as planned, with the competitive dialogue stage expected to start in early November 2022.

12. The project was progressing in accordance with its objectives regarding seismic mitigation measures, energy efficiency and compliance with codes and health and safety standards. The project schedule had been updated to reflect a completion date by the end of 2024, representing a delay of one year owing to the unforeseen cancellation of the tender for the general contractor service contract and the launch of the rebidding tendering exercise. As part of the lessons learned from the previous tendering process, the project management team was monitoring issues that could potentially affect the project, such as fluctuations in the cost of construction materials and supply chain disruptions, in order to identify and discuss possible mitigation measures during the competitive dialogue stage of the rebidding tendering exercise. The most recent Monte Carlo analysis indicated that the likelihood of the project being completed within the approved budget had decreased to approximately 14 per cent.

13. **Mr. Bachar Bong** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/77/7/Add.8), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/77/315) and appropriate \$640,400 for the project in 2023, comprising \$24,800 under section 21, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and \$615,600 under Section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement, and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for 2023. The Advisory Committee was concerned at the one-year delay in the completion of the project as a result of the unsuccessful first procurement exercise, with construction to commence in April 2023 and to end in October 2024, instead of in March 2022 and in September 2023, respectively.

14. The Advisory Committee noted that the renewed procurement process would take the form of a multistage request for proposals exercise. It requested that further information on that process, on the cost-effectiveness of the advance purchase of materials, and on the steps taken to address their deterioration over time be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the current progress report and in the next progress report.

15. The Advisory Committee noted the decrease, from 30 per cent in 2019 to 14 per cent in 2022, in the likelihood of the project being completed within the approved budget, and the impact of inflation and global supply chain challenges on the overall cost of the project. The Advisory Committee also noted the efforts of the ECLAC project management team to take proactive steps to manage risks. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would continue to monitor and mitigate the cost escalation level and project risks in order to ensure the completion of the project within the scope, budget and timeline approved by the General Assembly.

16. The Advisory Committee was grateful to the host country for its continued support for ECLAC and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to engage with other Member States in order to solicit voluntary contributions, including in-kind contributions, and other forms of support for the project.

17. **Mr. Durrani** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group appreciated the support of the Government of Chile for the work of ECLAC and for the implementation of the renovation project. The Organization should continue to cooperate closely with the host country, and the Secretary-General should continue to engage with local government authorities to ensure the project's success.

18. The Group emphasized the relevance of the regional commissions to the work of the Organization. ECLAC served as a point of reference for information, ideas and development-focused multilateral cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, having been active during various political moments in the region's history and serving as a bastion of support for developing countries in the region.

19. The Group welcomed the planned renovation of the North Building in order to transform it into the first net zero building in the United Nations system, noting that the new building would consume 41 per cent to 48 per cent less energy than the current building. The Secretary-General should continue to apply lessons learned from the ECLAC project to other United Nations construction projects.

20. Effective governance, oversight, internal control and accountability were critical to ensuring that the project was implemented within the approved budget and timeline. The Group welcomed the fact that the projected costs and quality of the proposed solutions were continuously being monitored by the project management team in order to meet United Nations objectives and standards.

21. The construction process, which had formerly been expected to begin in January 2022, as indicated in the previous progress report (A/76/323), was behind the original project schedule. The Secretary-General should adhere to the approved scope, budget and timeline for the completion of the project. The Group noted the quantitative risk analysis conducted in May 2022 and the decrease, from 30 per cent in 2019 to 14 per cent in 2022, in the likelihood of the project being completed within the approved budget. The Group also noted the cancellation of the tender for the general contractor service contract and the launch of the rebidding tendering exercise in the form of a multistage request for proposals exercise. The Secretary-General should make every effort to mitigate the risks related to the ongoing tendering process and the construction planning phase in order to conclude the project by the end of 2024.

22. **Mr. González Sese** (Chile), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), said that the 21 delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's report and the Advisory Committee's related report. The work of ECLAC to promote economic and social development through regional and subregional cooperation and integration was essential to the countries of the region. As a result of its continuous efforts to enhance the dissemination of information on the region's economic and social development, ECLAC had become an indispensable point of reference for those interested in the region's recent economic history.

23. In 1960 and 1997, the Government of Chile had donated land for the construction and expansion of the ECLAC complex. In-kind contributions to the North Building renovation project had also been made under the auspices of the Government of Chile, through programmes financed by the Production Development Corporation of Chile. The delegations welcomed the support provided by the Government and people of Chile for the project, and encouraged ECLAC to

continue to collaborate with the host country and local authorities throughout its implementation.

24. The objective of the project was to provide ECLAC with a fully renovated and code-compliant workplace in a seismically and functionally safe building that met or exceeded industry standards, contributed to a more productive and sustainable working environment, produced at least as much energy as it consumed, and had an additional 40 to 50 years of useful life. The project would provide the Organization with a highly energy-efficient building, resulting in reduced greenhouse gas emissions and operating costs. He recalled that, in its resolution [73/279](#), the General Assembly had approved the project's scope, schedule, implementation strategy and maximum cost. In his report ([A/77/315](#)), the Secretary-General had indicated that the estimated cost of the project remained unchanged, at \$14,330,200.

25. The delegations welcomed the fact that the project was progressing in accordance with its objectives regarding seismic risk mitigation measures, energy efficiency and compliance with health and safety regulations. They also noted that the final design provided for the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

26. The delegations noted the justified reasons for the cancellation of the bidding process for the general construction work and hoped that the new bidding process would be successful, enabling construction to begin in April 2023 and to be completed by the end of 2024. The Secretary-General should make every effort to mitigate the risks related to the ongoing bidding process and the construction phase of the project. The delegations also hoped that, in future progress reports, the Secretary-General would provide an update on the risk management and mitigation measures taken to ensure the project's implementation in accordance with the scope, budget and schedule approved by the General Assembly. In addition, they concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendations that the General Assembly allocate \$640,400 for the project in 2023 and approve the continuation of the temporary position of Procurement Officer (P-3) for the period from January to April 2023.

Agenda item 145: United Nations common system

Review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system ([A/77/222](#) and [A/77/531](#))

27. **Ms. Pollard** (Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations

common system ([A/77/222](#)), said that that report built on the previous report of the Secretary-General on the matter ([A/75/690](#)), which contained an overview of the challenges of having two administrative tribunal systems with concurrent jurisdiction over the common system organizations. The current report was being submitted in response to the General Assembly's request, contained in its resolution [75/245 B](#), that the Secretary-General submit detailed proposals and an analysis of practical options for promoting consistency in the system-wide implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

28. The proposals contained in the report were aimed at avoiding scenarios in which the tribunals of the United Nations system arrived at different conclusions on ICSC-related matters, as the divergent jurisprudence of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal concerning the authority of ICSC to establish post adjustment multipliers had led to many financial, administrative and legal challenges for the organizations concerned, undermining the integrity and cohesion of the common system. Proposal 1 set out the steps to be taken by responding legal offices during the litigation of cases involving ICSC recommendations or decisions in order to facilitate ICSC submissions to the Tribunals. Proposal 2 indicated the steps to be taken when a tribunal issued a decision in such a case, including those set out in ICSC guidance. Proposal 3 indicated the key elements for the establishment of a joint chamber comprising judges from the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, in order to issue one or more types of rulings on matters concerning ICSC recommendations and decisions.

29. Proposals 1 and 2 were authorized under the existing legal framework and therefore did not require any changes to that framework. They also reflected best practices and entailed no additional costs. The General Assembly should encourage all organizations and ICSC to implement them. Proposal 3 would require changes to the legal framework, including amendments to the statutes of the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Tribunals. However, unlike the other two proposals, it directly addressed the need to avoid, as much as possible, divergent jurisprudence by the Tribunals on ICSC-related matters, without jeopardizing the coexistence and independence of the two tribunal systems. A joint chamber that ensured clarity and consistency would contribute significantly to minimizing the risks related to the existence of dual systems with jurisdiction over matters concerning the entire common system. That situation was untenable, as

demonstrated by the circumstances relating to the Geneva post adjustment multiplier. It was therefore recommended that proposal 3 be finalized for review by the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session. The further preparatory work necessary for that purpose would be carried out in close cooperation with the International Labour Office, as the custodian of the ILO Administrative Tribunal, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and would require the continuation of the temporary resources currently allocated for such work.

30. **Mr. Bachar Bong** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/77/531), said that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/245 B, the Secretary-General had developed proposals to address inconsistencies in the implementation of ICSC decisions and recommendations associated with the existence of two independent tribunal systems (the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Tribunals). The Advisory Committee stressed the importance of preserving a single, unified and coherent United Nations common system and recalled the roles of the General Assembly and ICSC in approving, regulating and coordinating conditions of service and entitlements for all staff serving in the United Nations common system organizations.

31. With regard to the first proposal set out in the Secretary-General's report, the Advisory Committee recalled that, in its resolution 76/240, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with ICSC, to review the legal expertise available to ICSC and to report thereon at the Assembly's seventy-seventh session. With regard to the second proposal, the Advisory Committee recalled that, in its resolution 74/255 A, the General Assembly had requested that the executive heads of the United Nations common system organizations consult with ICSC in cases involving its recommendations and decisions and pending consideration by the tribunals of the United Nations system. With regard to the third proposal, the Advisory Committee trusted that further clarification regarding the legal authority of the types of rulings proposed for inclusion within the purview of the joint chamber of the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, namely, interpretative, preliminary and/or appellate rulings in cases involving ICSC recommendations or decisions, would be provided to the General Assembly at the current session. Moreover, in general, greater exchanges between the Tribunals would be beneficial.

32. The Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report, detailed cost estimates for the three proposals. The Advisory Committee trusted that updates on the timeline for the finalization of the proposals would be provided to the General Assembly and recommended approval of the resources required for 2023, totalling \$505,000.

33. **Mr. Durrani** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group appreciated the work of ICSC, remained committed to maintaining a single, unified United Nations common system, and reaffirmed the critical role of ICSC in regulating and coordinating the conditions of service of the common system, as stipulated in its statute.

34. The Group was disconcerted by the threat posed to the existence of the common system by ILO Administrative Tribunal judgments Nos. 4134 to 4138 regarding the implementation of the Geneva post adjustment multiplier. It was perplexed that the Tribunal, in its judgment No. 4138, had ruled that ICSC did not have the power to decide, by itself, the level of the post adjustment for a duty station. Since its inception, ICSC had consistently established post adjustment multipliers for duty stations worldwide, in accordance with its statute. The Group had long supported the mandate of ICSC to establish such multipliers, as set out in its statute. The Group nevertheless stood ready to engage constructively in discussions, including on the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/77/222), aimed at clarifying the ICSC statute and at enabling ICSC to fulfil its mandate independently.

35. The Group recognized the value of the work of the ICSC task force on the review of the conceptual framework of the post adjustment index and of the Advisory Committee on Post Adjustment Questions. It also recognized and appreciated the contributions of relevant working groups to the development of proposals on common system-related issues pertinent to the deliberations of ICSC. Moreover, enhanced consultations with stakeholders would facilitate ICSC decision-making.

36. **Ms. Schmied** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that the two delegations attached great importance to the United Nations common system. A strong and unified common system ensured consistent and equitable working conditions and remuneration for all employees. The fragmentation of the United Nations common system as a result of the conflicting rulings of the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal was

regrettable. Concerted action by the United Nations common system entities was in the interest of all stakeholders. It was unfortunate that the clarifications and statements of the General Assembly regarding the post adjustment multiplier had not resolved the problem.

37. Only Member States could identify a sustainable solution to the issue. The necessary legal clarifications should be made and consultations should be held with all parties involved in order to provide the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly with the information required to take action. The delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's report, which had been drafted in an inclusive manner and on the basis of consultations with all stakeholders involved, in line with best practices. Switzerland and Liechtenstein supported the first two proposals set out in the report and were generally in favour of closer interaction between the Tribunals. Before any determinations could be made regarding approaches to be taken with regard to the development of a joint chamber of the Tribunals, a number of legal, procedural and financial issues must be clarified.

38. In view of the many challenges they faced, the United Nations common system organizations must have qualified and motivated staff who were provided with appropriate conditions and remuneration. The most valuable asset of such organizations was their staff; the organizations' ability to fulfil their responsibilities depended on their staff's talents, motivation and dedication. A balance between mandate implementation and the efficient use of resources, as well as the ability to attract and retain appropriate staff in an increasingly competitive market, must be maintained.

39. **Ms. Viney** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom was committed to preserving the integrity of the common system, ensuring common standards for staff, avoiding discrepancies and preventing competition among United Nations organizations in the area of recruitment.

40. ICSC was to be commended for conducting the 2021 round of cost-of-living surveys professionally, drawing on evidence, best practices, and extensive and inclusive consultations with stakeholders. Given the credibility of that exercise, the United Kingdom was seriously concerned about the continued application of two concurrent post adjustment multipliers in Geneva, as it perpetuated discrepancies in the conditions of employment for staff and jeopardized the sustainability of the common system of salaries and allowances. As repeatedly stated by the General Assembly, the ICSC had the statutory authority to establish post adjustment multipliers for the common system duty stations. All the

common system organizations should therefore implement the new multipliers, as well as all other ICSC decisions and recommendations.

41. In the short term, a solution must be found to resolve the divergence. The United Kingdom was grateful for the briefings provided to the Committee by the Chair of ICSC and the Director-General of ILO on 24 October 2022, and for their engagement and leadership. The United Kingdom was open to considering all creative solutions, including ensuring that the statutory authority of ICSC was more explicitly stated in order to avoid any ambiguity in the interpretation of such authority by tribunals and organizations. Any such proposals would require the support of all the common system organizations. Longer-term solutions must also be found to prevent the issue from recurring. In that regard, the United Kingdom welcomed the Secretary-General's proposals to improve the jurisdictional set-up of the common system and to mitigate the risk of future divergence. The United Kingdom looked forward to considering those proposals, together with other viable options, in order to find a permanent solution to the issue.

42. **Mr. Devyatkin** (Russian Federation) said that the deliberations on the United Nations common system had focused on the discussions initiated by the ILO secretariat concerning amendments to the ICSC statute and on the Secretary-General's proposals for improving the jurisdictional set-up of the common system. The strongest link between those matters were the relevant 2019 judgments of the ILO Administrative Tribunal, judgments that continued to generate questions among Member States. For example, Member States wondered why, if the issue concerning the post adjustment multiplier in Geneva could be easily resolved by clarifying the ICSC statute, the ILO secretariat had not proposed such a solution earlier. They also wondered whether the ILO secretariat's proposed amendments to the ICSC statute would legitimize the practice of implementing alternative post adjustment multipliers in organizations that disagreed with the results of the ICSC cost-of-living surveys.

43. Over the past week, the governing bodies of the Universal Postal Union and the International Labour Organization had taken decisions regarding ILO Administrative Tribunal judgments, decisions that provided a sound basis for reflection. The Russian Federation was prepared to discuss the proposal to amend the ICSC statute with a view to achieving results, but was not convinced that such amendments would be productive. He hoped that a solution would be found at the current session.

44. The Russian Federation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the jurisdictional set-up of the United Nations common system (A/77/222) and his efforts in that regard. The establishment of a joint chamber comprising judges from the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal was a good idea, provided that the chamber had the power to review the disputed judgments of the ILO Administrative Tribunal regarding the common system. Without such power, the chamber would be reduced to yet another coordination mechanism with a highly restricted number of advisory functions and whose interpretative and preliminary judgments, like the General Assembly resolutions on the common system, would be ignored by international organizations. The failure of administrative officials to fully implement those resolutions indicated that they took for granted the benefits that they derived from participating in the common system and in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. Such a view was erroneous. A review should be conducted in order to determine the restrictive measures that could be taken against organizations that did not fully implement ICSC decisions.

45. **Ms. Romanova** (United States of America) said that, since the start of the application of two divergent post adjustment multipliers in Geneva, the General Assembly had been united in affirming the authority of ICSC to establish post adjustment multipliers. Through several resolutions, the Assembly had expressed its unwavering commitment to upholding the integrity of the United Nations common system and had sought viable solutions in order to end the application of the divergent multipliers, an unsustainable practice that seriously undermined the system's coherence. With a view to identifying such a solution, a proposal had been made to amend the ICSC statute in order to eliminate any perceived legal ambiguity regarding the authority of ICSC and to clearly align the statute with current practice. Although the United States saw merit in that proposal, any decision to amend the ICSC statute should be taken with due caution. She therefore hoped that, at the current session, stakeholders would engage in robust, good-faith and due diligence-based discussions designed to build confidence in the proposal, in order to take the necessary action. Through united and resolute steps, the General Assembly could finally establish system-wide cohesion after several years of volatility in United Nations compensation matters.

46. With regard to the jurisdictional set-up of the common system, there was broad interest in addressing possible future divergences in jurisprudence on ICSC-related matters. Her delegation took seriously the risk of

such divergences, given the disruption caused by the situation related to the post adjustment multiplier for Geneva established by ICSC. At the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, the United States had expressed support for the Secretary-General's proposal to set up a joint chamber of the ILO Administrative Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal to review ICSC-related matters. In his report (A/77/222), he highlighted a number of sensitivities associated with that proposal. Although all aspects of the proposal must be considered carefully and weighed against the potential costs of its implementation, the United States was deeply concerned at the uncollaborative tone of some stakeholders. She hoped that all parties concerned would indicate their full intent to support efforts to address the issues arising from divergent jurisprudence.

Agenda item 147: Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/77/507)

47. **Ms. Pietracci** (United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the statistical report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on the budgetary and financial situation of the organizations of the United Nations system (A/77/507), said that the report was the only system-wide source of financial statistics for the organizations of the United Nations system, prepared on the basis of official data contained in the organizations' audited financial statements. The data had been collected by the CEB secretariat, as mandated by the General Assembly in its decisions 47/449, 53/459, 57/557 and 57/558.

48. In its resolution 63/311, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to create a central repository of information on operational activities for development, including disaggregated statistics on all funding sources and expenditures, and to ensure appropriate and user-friendly online access and regular updating of the information contained therein. In addition, in its resolution 71/243, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the analytical quality of system-wide reporting on funding for the United Nations operational activities for development, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, and in that regard had called for the publication of timely, reliable, verifiable and comparable system-wide and entity-level data. In response to those requests, the CEB secretariat had enhanced the content of the report, in particular by introducing the data standards for United Nations

system-wide reporting of financial data, which had taken effect on 1 January 2019. The standards had been developed through a joint initiative of the CEB High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group in order to ensure high-quality, timely and relevant data.

49. Standard I, entitled “United Nations entity”, prescribed which United Nations entities should report their financial data, including during the annual collection of financial statistics by CEB. Standard II, entitled “United Nations system function”, was aimed at facilitating the reporting of expenses in the four main functional areas of the United Nations: development assistance, humanitarian assistance, peace operations, and global agenda and specialized assistance. Standard III, entitled “Geographic location”, set out the geographical locations under which financial information should be reported and provided guidance for the allocation of expenses to those locations. Standard IV, entitled “United Nations grant financing instruments”, defined the grant instruments and other arrangements whereby funds were received by United Nations entities. Standard V, entitled “Sustainable Development Goals”, set out a common methodology and format for tracking the contribution of United Nations activities to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and defined the ways in which United Nations financial information should be reported in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Standard VI, entitled “Revenue by contributor”, set forth guidance on reporting revenue received by donors.

50. The data contained in the report covered the period from 2015 to 2021, with a focus on revenues and expenses for 2020 and 2021, in line with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), and fully incorporated the new reporting standards. The data collected by CEB were also used by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as the basis for its report on operational activities for development, a change that had reduced the reporting workload of organizations. The CEB report also included data for two United Nations system entities for which data had not been included in the previous report, namely, the International Seabed Authority and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

51. In preparing the current report, the CEB secretariat had striven to provide more detail on revenue received from non-Member State donors, including by focusing on United Nations inter-agency pooled funds. For example, table 2B contained a column reflecting

contributions received from such funds. Significant advances had also been made in the granularity of the reporting of expenses in 2020 and 2021, with more United Nations system organizations having reported information on expenses by country or region than in previous years.

52. In order to improve the comprehensiveness, granularity, accuracy, readability and user-friendliness of its reports, CEB would, upon issuing its next report, make certain tables available for download from its website and provide the relevant links in the report, with the aim of helping users to gain access to raw data and perform analysis. That would increase the amount of data available to Member States and other stakeholders, as well as the transparency, accessibility and readability of that data.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.