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Chair: Mr. Lipand (Vice-Chair) (Estonia)
*Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Mr. Sene

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

Agenda item 145: Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/73/460)

1. **Mr. Lalli** (Secretary of the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), speaking via video link from Geneva to introduce 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/73/460), 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.

2. In response to the request contained in paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 63/311, the CEB secretariat had worked with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to establish a single data collection mechanism and harmonize reporting processes. Consequently, the data collected by CEB in its statistical reporting exercise was also used as the basis for the Department's report on operational activities for development, and the reporting workload of all United Nations organizations had been greatly reduced.

3. Participation by organizations in the reporting exercise, which had been completed in October 2018, had been strong. In addition to the organizations that had participated in the previous exercise, the report included financial data for six organizations that had begun participating in 2017. The data reflected in the report covered the six-year period from 2012 to 2017, with a particular focus on revenues and expenses for the biennium 2016–2017.

4. In response to requests from Member States, the CEB secretariat had provided more detailed information on revenue received from non-Member State donors, including by introducing, in the table reflecting voluntary contributions, specified for purpose, received from certain non-Member State donors, an additional column for reporting contributions received from United Nations inter-agency pooled funds. The granularity of data on expenses had also improved significantly, with more organizations having provided a breakdown of their expenses at the country or regional level than in previous years. Almost 75 per cent of expenses for 2017 had been reported at the country or

regional level, illustrating with greater transparency where resources were being used. Information on expenses by country and region was available on the CEB secretariat's website.

5. The CEB secretariat was continuously working to enhance the transparency and availability of data. The tables and data published in the report, together with some analysis of the figures presented and a number of charts demonstrating recent trends, by country, organization and donor type, would soon be updated on the CEB secretariat's website to include data for 2017.

6. All organizations had implemented the International Public Sector Accounting Standards prior to or during the 2014–2015 reporting period, with the exception of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which prepared its financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards. The data presented were thus aligned with the financial statements of each organization.

7. Four major categories of revenue had been reported, namely, assessed contributions; voluntary contributions, not specified; voluntary contributions, specified; and revenue from other activities. In addition, expenses had been reported according to five major programme categories, namely, development assistance; humanitarian assistance; peacekeeping operations; technical cooperation; and normative, treaty-related or knowledge-creation activities.

Agenda item 141: Human resources management
(continued) (A/72/767, A/73/372/Add.2 and A/73/569)

8. **Ms. Lopez** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General on mobility (A/72/767 and A/73/372/Add.2), said that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/265, the report submitted for consideration at the Assembly's seventy-second session, which had been deferred for consideration until the seventy-third session, provided an annual update on the implementation of the mobility framework. Also pursuant to that resolution, the report submitted for consideration at the seventy-third session contained a summary of the outcomes of the comprehensive review of the mobility framework, and outlined the next steps for consultations on a proposal for a new approach to mobility, to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

9. Staff mobility was critical to ensuring that knowledge and experience were shared and replicated throughout the Organization, and to supporting the Secretary-General's vision for a nimble, effective, transparent, accountable and efficient Organization. In

order to conduct the comprehensive review requested by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General had paused the implementation of the mobility framework. The report submitted for consideration at the seventy-third session summarized the methodology followed in conducting the review of the implementation of the first two job networks to be operationalized under the framework, namely, the Political, Peace and Humanitarian Network (POLNET) and the Information and Telecommunication Technology Network (ITECNET), as well as the findings and lessons learned.

10. The comprehensive review had enabled the Secretary-General to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the mobility framework in achieving its objectives, as well as to ensure that the Organization's future approach to mobility would be consistent with his proposed new management paradigm and the aim of building a workforce for the future. Conducted following broad-based consultations within the Secretariat, the review had highlighted the need for a multi-faceted approach to mobility, given the diversity of the Organization's programmes and operations. Mobility should also be an integral part of career development and should benefit the Organization as a whole by promoting the development of senior staff with a broad skill set and range of experiences. Furthermore, a culture of mobility should be fostered over time throughout the Organization to encourage and support staff in undertaking new tasks and assignments spanning the full range of United Nations mandates and duty stations. As was the case in most national government and international institutions, adequate resources must be provided to ensure the success of mobility initiatives.

11. In keeping with the Organization's duty of care to staff members serving under difficult conditions, future mobility programmes should promote greater movement of staff in and out of hardship duty stations. While the Organization's mobility framework needed to be based on centralized policies and oversight, it should also be consistent with the Secretary-General's call for increased delegation of authority and should enable heads of departments and offices to tailor mobility initiatives to their entities' specific needs. Drawing on the findings of and lessons learned from the comprehensive review, and following further consultations, the Secretary-General would present, for consideration at the seventy-fourth session, a proposal for a new mobility framework that would be aligned with his proposed global human resources strategy and with the Organization's approach to career development, learning and staff selection.

12. **Mr. Sene** (Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/73/569), said that, in its resolution 68/265, the General Assembly had approved the Secretary-General's refined proposal for a managed mobility framework, which had been implemented over a period of two years, with the operationalization of POLNET in 2016 and 2017, and of ITECNET in 2017. Noting that the Secretary-General had not provided information on actual direct and indirect costs arising from the implementation of the framework in 2016 and 2017, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request him to include such information in his new proposal, to be submitted for consideration at the seventy-fourth session. The Advisory Committee also trusted that, in preparing that proposal, the Secretary-General would be guided by relevant General Assembly resolutions and would take into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the mobility framework in 2016 and 2017.

13. **Mr. Sang Deok Na** (Republic of Korea) said that the Organization must develop and ensure efficient use of its staff, as they were its most important resource and a driving force behind the Secretary-General's ongoing reform initiatives. Managed mobility was one of the most effective ways of achieving the global, dynamic, adaptable and engaged workforce required by the United Nations, as it facilitated mandate implementation, provided staff with career development opportunities; and promoted equal opportunities for staff by ensuring a fair sharing of the burden of service in difficult duty stations, objectives that were particularly relevant at a time of dynamic global challenges.

14. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposed global human resources strategy, under which mobility had been identified as a core element of proactive talent management. The new mobility system should not only be a cornerstone of the Organization's human resources management policies, but should also be an integral part of overall management reform. The Secretary-General must present to the General Assembly a thorough proposal for a more robust mobility framework, taking into account the findings of and lessons learned from the comprehensive review. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General's decision to pause the implementation of the mobility framework would ultimately expedite progress to that end.

15. **Ms. Verones** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that a comprehensive mobility framework must be a central element of the

new management paradigm for the United Nations. Mobility must be an integral part of career development and of successful talent management. Drawing on lessons learned from non-Secretariat entities within the Organization and from outside the United Nations system, the Secretary-General must present a bold proposal for a new mobility framework for the consideration at the General Assembly's seventy-fourth session.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.