

**Talking points for informal presentation of the Under-Secretary-General for
Management, Ms. Alicia Bárcena**

5 October 2007

- For the last decade, this Committee has presided over great change in the Secretariat. Member States have supported the Secretary-General and the Organization in the collective efforts to respond to an increasing diverse and complex set of operational challenges.
- Significant reforms over the last decade include the creation of DESA, OHCHR; the strengthening of PK operations following the Brahimi report; the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission, Human Rights Council, Ethics Office, DSS, UNFIP and the Global Compact.
- Following the World Summit, a comprehensive management reform report was issued in early 2006. Subsequently, the General Assembly has taken decisions on the creation of a CITO, the establishment of an ERP; on procurement reform, on the creation of the IAAC, on the CMP and on certain aspects of Human Resources Management.
- The Controller will make a separate presentation on the proposed programme budget for 2008/9. The budget proposals amounted to \$4.195.2million (before recosting). Comparatively, this reflects real growth of 0.5 per cent (\$21.3million) above the revised budget level for the biennium 2006/2007 as approved in December 2006. A preliminary recosting is included in budget proposals; the related requirement of \$200.4million brings regular budget requirements to \$4.395.6million.
- There are a number of budgetary “add-ons” that have arisen out of GA resolutions (IAAC, Pandemic Preparedness) SG reform initiatives (e.g. Administration of Justice, ERP) and the decisions of other intergovernmental bodies (e.g. Human Rights Council and CEDAW).
- The five main areas under the rubric of management reform this session are: 1) Procurement reform; 2) Accountability; 3) Administration of Justice; 4) Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system; and 5) Human resources reform.
- On procurement, a comprehensive report will address the progress on several different fronts to improve internal controls, management systems and overall efficiency and effectiveness. These will include the introduction of an ethics and integrity programme, targeted training in PK missions, better planning and monitoring, development of an independent bid protest system and increasing the diversity of supply.

- On accountability, following last year's review, the GA has asked for the SG to develop a clearly defined accountability framework and to propose clear parameters for its rigorous application at all levels of the Organization. Two related reviews are underway to develop a results-based management framework and an enterprise risk management system for the Organization. It is anticipated that these three reports will be completed towards the end of December.
- On Administration of Justice, as requested in resolution 61/261, the Secretary-General is submitting extensive legal and operational detail on the new justice system, approved by the General Assembly last fall. The three pillars of the proposed new system entail an enhanced Ombudsman function, including mediation; a new management evaluation capacity and a two-tier system of formal independent judicial review. Estimated resource requirements amount to \$23.5million from the 2008/9 regular budget.
- On the ERP system, the General Assembly has already approved the replacement of IMIS with a new ERP system. The Secretary-General's report to the Fifth Committee will therefore provide additional detail on the goals and objectives of the new system, the project scope and implementation approach, as well as initial estimates for resource requirements. The ERP is intended to build an integrated global information system that fully supports the needs of the UN and enables effective management of human, financial and physical resources. It will also enable the organization to become IPSAS compliant in the coming years. The initial request for resources will be in the order of \$25million
- On Human Resources reform, two main issues will come before the Assembly in the current session, that were first outlined in the comprehensive report "Investing in people" of August 2006 – the streamlining of contractual arrangements and harmonization of conditions of service for field staff. These reforms are particularly important in view of the fact that more than 62% of Secretariat staff are now deployed to the field. Current inequities have affected the Organization's ability to attract and retain quality staff, particularly in those locations where they are needed most. Estimated additional resources for streamlining contracts would amount to \$23million. Harmonization is more costly and will be funded mostly from peacekeeping sources.
- In addition, there are two additional initiatives that the Secretary-General wishes to bring before this session of the Committee: a proposed acceleration of the CMP and strengthening of DPA.
- On the CMP, following an audit report on the delays and potential cost overruns, the Secretary-General will, therefore, propose measures to limit cost escalation and mitigate risks. This essentially means a compressed schedule for project implementation, with revisions to the project phasing, swing space temporary building requirements. The revised strategy would bring implementation timelines down from seven years to five and would allow the project to stay

within the \$1.88 billion approved budget. The current schedule of assessments would therefore remain unaffected. This new approach will be included in the Fifth Annual Progress Report on the CMP.

- To further strengthen the UN's work in the area of peace and security, the Secretary-General is proposing that DPA explore new and flexible approaches to conflict prevention, extend and deepen its conflict prevention networks in priority regions, and strengthen its mediation and "good-offices" functions. Each of these initiatives, if successful, can reduce the need for protracted and expensive peacekeeping missions. The Department's abilities to do this are currently constrained by lack of human and financial resources. The Secretary-General will therefore propose this session enhancements to the capacity of DPA in both Headquarters and in the field. Detailed cost implications are being prepared and a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Fifth Committee later this session.