



Finance Committee

Distr.: General
31 March 2016

Original: English

Twenty-second session

Kingston, Jamaica

11-22 July 2016

Implementation of cost-saving measures

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Throughout the reporting period, the secretariat of the International Seabed Authority remained committed to limiting increases in administrative expenses through the continued implementation of cost-saving and efficiency measures. The Authority continues to be a member of the United Nations country team and is currently working with eight entities¹ through the operations management team to develop agreements under the “Delivering as one” initiative of the United Nations and the Business Operations Strategy in Jamaica. Under the Strategy, the operations management team works towards reducing costs while streamlining business practices in areas such as human resources management, information technology, finance, procurement, travel and common premises.

2. The implementation of the Strategy has resulted in paying 35-40 per cent below list prices for courier services and up to 20 per cent below list prices for office stationery. It is expected that those cost savings will continue during the financial period 2017-2018.

3. Final steps are being taken to join the current long-term agreement for regional travel services signed by United Nations funds and programmes in Panama. Several United Nations agencies based in Jamaica are taking advantage of that agreement to reduce their traveling expenditure. In addition, the secretariat has enrolled in an airline’s frequent flyer programme and earned approximately 20,000 points, which will be used to procure airplane tickets for United Nations staff to travel from New York to Kingston to attend the annual session of the Authority.

¹ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Population Fund.



4. In 2016, the operations management team may review cost-saving and efficiency initiatives covering:

(a) Fleet management services, including the procurement of fuel for motor vehicles;

(b) Telephone rates and services;

(c) The development, for standard categories of services, of a roster of frequently hired consultants.

5. In the light of an overexpenditure of \$5,200 in overtime in 2015, working practices have been reviewed to reduce overtime and to implement compensatory time off for scheduled overtime.

6. As mentioned by the Secretary-General in his report of June 2015 on the implementation of potential cost-saving measures (ISBA/21/FC/7), the Authority is making a provision to procure a new lighting system in its budget proposal for the biennium 2017-2018. The new system is expected to reduce energy consumption from lighting by up to 50 per cent, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$15,000, and to have an estimated two-year payback period on the initial investment.

Recommendation

7. The Finance Committee is invited to take note of the measures taken by the secretariat to promote greater efficiency and accountability and to constrain, as far as possible, unnecessary increases in administrative expenditure.
