



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
VÉRIFIER AU PRONONCÉ**

**STATEMENT BY
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COUNSELLOR WITH THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (CANZ)**

**DURING THE MEETING ON
SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 4 OF THE NORTH LAWN BUILDING**

NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 2013

**DÉCLARATION DE
JONATHAN PAUL QUINN
CONSEILLER AVEC LA
MISSION PERMANENTE DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES
AU NOM DU GROUPE FORMÉ AVEC L'AUSTRALIE ET LA NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE (CANZ)**

**PENDANT LA SÉANCE CONCERNANT LES
MISSIONS POLITIQUES SPÉCIALE
DANS LA SALLE DE CONFÉRENCE 4 DU BÂTIMENT DE LA PELOUSE NORD**

NEW YORK, LE 16 DÉCEMBRE 2013

Thank you Mr Chairman.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ). I thank the members of the Secretariat and the ACABQ for introducing their respective reports on Special Political Missions (SPMs).

CANZ considers SPMs a useful tool in advancing global peace and security, particularly with respect to peacebuilding, mediation, and the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

CANZ recognizes the important role SPMs can play in supporting elections, building national institutions, constitution making, and advancing human rights and the rule of law. SPMs also can help monitor the sanctions regimes that prevent the unlawful exploitation of natural resources and other issues that so often contribute to the escalation or outbreak of conflict. SPMs can also play a role in efforts to advance the women, peace and security agenda.

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) provides a concrete example of what special political missions can achieve. UNIPSIL is on track to depart Sierra Leone in March 2014, and the UN transition process is well underway. Executive-Representative of the Secretary-General Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, the UN Country Team, and the UN system deserve great credit for their efforts to ensure the successful transformation of international support for Sierra Leone, and in laying the foundations for sustainable progress. CANZ believes that the successful implementation of the UNIPSIL mandate and the careful approach to transition planning holds valuable lessons that can be applied to other SPMs.

Mr. Chairman,

CANZ has carefully reviewed the Secretary-General's current estimates for SPMs.

We commend the initial efforts made to date to apply fiscal discipline to the management and administration of SPMs. In this context, CANZ welcomes the overall \$32 million reduction in 2014-15 from the appropriation proposed by the Secretary General in his budget outline last year. We stress the importance of achieving this reduction in a way that does not impede effective mandate delivery. Great care must be taken to ensure that the structure, staffing levels and resources allocated to all special political missions are closely tailored to the real requirements on the ground. As the new SPMs are established in the Sahel, Somalia, and the

Great Lakes Region, CANZ will take a keen interest in how they go about delivering their respective mandates.

CANZ strongly believes that the application of fiscal discipline must be a continuous process, and that there are many more efficiencies to be explored and implemented. We look forward to continued efforts by the Secretariat to find innovative ways to deliver SPM mandates in an efficient, effective, and affordable manner.

Mr. Chairman,

CANZ believes that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan plays a central role in coordinating international action and assistance in support of the Government of Afghanistan. It is important that we continue to provide adequate support to the Government of Afghanistan to help reinforce its ability to advance political and economic development, as well as security. We note with some concern that the mission's child protection and gender functions have been merged into the UNAMA's Human Rights Unit. We understand that there may be operational, as well as financial benefits to this approach; however, we remain concerned that such a move has the potential to sideline these matters within the mission. CANZ seeks assurances that direct reporting lines to senior mission leadership are reinforced and that the mission's required capacity to undertake its mandated tasks in relation to child protection and equality between men and women is maintained. CANZ will be following this issue closely.

Mr. Chairman,

To ensure that SPMs are optimally positioned to achieve efficiencies and effectively deliver their mandates, CANZ believes there is a clear need to find solutions to some of the practical administrative challenges they face.

Flexibility is a key element of what makes SPMs such a useful tool in advancing peace and security. We need to ensure that SPMs have access to the support structures they need to retain this flexibility.

CANZ believes it is now time to take action on some of the Secretary General's recommendations to enhance SPMs' access to appropriate support structures. We believe we have the opportunity at this session to achieve practical operational benefits, as well as financial efficiencies.