

**Secretary-General informal ECOSOC briefing on the Reform of the UN
Development System**

10 November 2017

Remarks by Canada, New Zealand and Australia

Delivered by Ambassador Gillian Bird

Thank you Madame President

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of Canada, New Zealand, and my own country, Australia.

I will keep our remarks brief, but we would like to make three key points:

First, to thank the Secretary-General for his ongoing commitment to reform. Without your drive, and the drive of Deputy-Secretary General Amina Mohammed, we would not together be able to seize this critical window for reform, so thank you for this very useful and timely update.

Second, we would like to encourage the ambition to remain high - the UN in this reform process must ensure that the UN and the UN development system remain more than the sum of their constituent parts.

We need to do so, to have a system which can play its critical part in reflecting the UN Charter's ambition in 'saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war', to 'reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights', and to 'promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'. Ambitions that remain unfulfilled.

The mandates for this are reflected across the board, whether you look at the 2030 Agenda, or Secretariat reform in resolution 70/299, or the twin resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on 'sustaining peace', or the QCPR.

Most of these reforms are not about promoting new areas of work, but rather looking at how to do this work better.

It is through the interconnections between all of our efforts that we will find solutions and effect change.

In relation to what these solutions could look like Canada, New Zealand and Australia have provided a range of detailed comments to the Deputy Secretary-General and her team, and stand ready to assist as these critical conversations continue.

Finally, we would encourage locking in our existing agreements and maintaining momentum as we move forward together.

We all are increasingly aware that this process will not magically be solved in December, but we would encourage you, Secretary-General, to continue to act on all of your mandates that can be progressed today, to ensure our collective momentum for reform continues.

Continue to inspire us, continue to push us and continue to work with us to ensure that we live up to the expectations that we hold for ourselves, and the world holds for us.

Thank you, Madame President.