

Canada, Australia and New Zealand

**Statement delivered by Caitlin Wilson,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia
On Agenda Item 134: Management Reform**

Thank you Mr Chairman, and thank you Mr Secretary-General.

I would also like to thank the Chairman of ACABQ.

On behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand I want to make four brief points:

First, reform is in the interests of all Member States.

It will enable the UN to better deliver the SDGs and maintain peace and security.

We support the Secretary-General's vision for a more flexible and responsive United Nations.

We must seize this rare and long overdue opportunity to realise concrete organisational reform, that results in a more effective, accountable, transparent, and efficient UN.

Second, to seize this opportunity we, Member States, must now turn our vocal support in the General Assembly into real action in the Fifth Committee.

Our leaders, our governments, and the peoples of the world have entrusted us to build a better UN.

We – the Fifth Committee – must not let them down.

Third – colleagues – we do not need to discuss everything in the next two weeks.

We need to focus on only those elements we need to decide on now, and do those well.

Perhaps, Mr Chairman this means we must all (and we know it's difficult) bite our tongues on some issues now, and entrust you, Secretary-General, to deliver us a comprehensive report in the new year.

For CANZ it means taking a differentiated approach to the two very different tasks we have been given: one is for decision now and one for next year.

CANZ will take such an approach.

This means not passing substantive judgment on all points highlighted by ACABQ – just those where we need a decision now.

During informals we will limit our questions and text proposals to focus on these decision points.

On these we believe the Secretary-General is right to point toward a better budget process, focused on results, and to remove overlap and duplication between the Department of Management and the Department of Field Support.

And, CANZ would want to explore architecture improvements with the benefit of ACABQ's recent advice.

We will keep an open mind and reserve our judgement on the other elements for when we receive the Secretary-General's comprehensive report.

We urge all delegations to take a similar approach and we welcome an early setting of a deadline for the text.

Finally, let's not forget why we are doing this.

The changes we consider will have real consequences for UN operations and for people who need the UN's help.

We must all make sure that they do not wait any longer than they already have for a better UN.

With this in mind we would like to ask a question of you, Mr Secretary-General: We note that ACABQ largely determined that the issue of flexibility fell outside of their competence as a Committee, as it was within the policy remit of this body.

Why should we expand flexibility for you and how will that help people on the ground?

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Know that we welcome your leadership, and that Canada, Australia and New Zealand will support you to achieve consensus and pass a resolution at this session.