

*** CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ***

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**Agenda item 136
Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

**Tenth and final progress report on the adoption of International Public Sector
Accounting Standards by the United Nations (A/72/213)**

FIFTH COMMITTEE

Statement by

Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

13 September 2017

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honour to introduce the tenth and final progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of IPSAS at the United Nations.
2. It is recalled that as at the end of 2016, the UN system organizations had presented IPSAS-compliant financial statements with unqualified audit opinions. These results attest to the capability of the United Nations system of having sustained compliance with IPSAS to date, with IPSAS continuously evolving in order to improve the quality of financial reporting, enhancing transparency and accountability.
3. The present tenth and final report, focuses on the progress made and challenges experienced during the institutionalisation of the IPSAS compliance in the United Nations system. The report

discusses progress at the United Nations Secretariat with respect to each of the five pillars of IPSAS sustainability and describes the outlook for continuing sustainability.

4. We were pleased to note that the Advisory Committee commented in their related report that the IPSAS project is one success story of the United Nations transformational projects and commends the Secretary-General's efforts to complete its implementation. Thank you to the Advisory Committee and their Members for their continued support and guidance.

5. The previous IPSAS progress reports, including the eighth and ninth, identified five core pillars of the sustainability efforts. These sustainability pillars include the management of IPSAS benefits; the strengthening of internal controls leading to the issuance of a Statement on Internal Controls; the management of the IPSAS regulatory framework; the strengthening of Umoja as the backbone for IPSAS-compliant accounting and reporting; and training and skills development. The report highlights the progress in each of the pillars and the results achieved so far.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

6. As stated in the Ninth IPSAS Progress Report, a number of critical activities must be mainstreamed within OPPBA to support the sustainability of IPSAS at the United Nations, including the introduction of a Statement on Internal Controls. With the successful completion of the project on adoption of IPSAS, besides sustaining compliance, the Organization now turns its focus on the implementation of a comprehensive internal control framework which will demand our full attention in order to make our Institution more transparent and accountable.

7. I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Auditors for its engagement throughout the course of IPSAS implementation and for their observations and recommendations.

8. Mr. Chairman, Distinguished delegates, the IPSAS Team and I stand ready to respond to the Committee's questions and look forward to a fruitful interaction.

Thank you.