

**Statement: Australia on behalf of CANZ**

**Fifth Committee: Item 139. Review of efficiency: Management reform  
– Implementation: Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations**

**28 October 2020**

*Delivered by HE Mr Mitch Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia*

Thank you, Mr Chair.

I thank Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet to the UN Secretary-General, as well as Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for their presentations.

I have the honour today to speak on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

We wish to firstly congratulate the Secretary-General on the progress made in implementing his reforms of the Organisation. Guiding change of this scale is never easy, even when it is necessary. COVID-19 has highlighted the necessity and timeliness of reform.

We are pleased that the Organisation found itself in a better position to ensure business-continuity through the pandemic thanks to these reforms and was able to continue to deliver for the people around the world it serves.

We encourage the Secretary-General to continue to modernise the UN's systems and culture to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

Chair,

On-the-ground delivery, paired with accountability and transparency, must continue to be the Organisation's focus.

It is with this in mind that we are particularly pleased to see the simplification of processes and the decentralised delegation of authority system, which other colleagues have referred to, that empowers managers to make decisions closer to the point of delivery. We are encouraged by the feedback this new system has already received, particularly from those in the field.

We also welcome the annual budget, now in its second year, which supports this more nimble approach to mandate delivery.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to view the three reform pillars as mutually reinforcing, and welcome the separate review of implementation of the United Nations peace and security pillar reform. Peace and security reform is vital for building and sustaining peace, in particular to support transitions.

We are encouraged that implementation of this pillar has brought greater coherence to the work of political, security and development actors in the United Nations system, particularly in strengthening work on conflict prevention.

Together, we must continue to support this reform process to increase the effectiveness of peace operations.

This includes improving planning, capacities, and reducing the start-up time for new missions. It also involves increasing the numbers and enhancing the roles of women peacekeepers, which we know are critical to operational effectiveness.

Finally, Chair, we recognise that changing the culture of an organisation is not a short-term process, and that reform is never a one-move endeavour. It will require adjustments along the way, there will be a learning curve. This is to be expected.

Improving the functionality of the UN is not something we believe should ever be considered 'finished', or ever can be considered finished.

The UN must continue to adapt, and always look for ways to better execute its mandate delivery. And for its part, CANZ will continue to strongly support the Secretary-General's efforts in this regard.

Thank you Mr Chair.