



STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. COLLEN V KELAPILE

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING

**THE FIFTH COMMITTEE'S MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 139

***REVIEW OF EFFICIENCY: MANAGEMENT REFORM –
IMPLEMENTATION: SHIFTING THE MANAGEMENT PARADIGM IN
THE UNITED NATIONS***

NEW YORK

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Mr. Chair,

1. We join other delegations in congratulating you and the other Bureau members on your well-deserved election to guide the work of the Fifth Committee during this 75th Session of the General Assembly, and we have full confidence that under your able leadership the Committee will successfully conclude its agenda.
2. We thank Chef de Cabinet for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on: ***“Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: review of progress in the implementation of management reform”***.
3. We also extend our profound gratitude to the Chairs of the ACABQ, and the Board of Auditors for presenting the respective reports of the two crucial bodies containing an elaborate analysis, observations and useful recommendations on this important subject matter.
4. Our delegation fully aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as the African Group by Their Excellencies the Permanent Representatives of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations, respectively. We however wish to take this opportunity to make a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

5. It is now two years since the adoption of resolution 72/266B. In passing that resolution, the General Assembly acknowledged the merits of the Secretary-General’s proposals to continuously re-adapt the institutional arrangements and capacities so as to ensure that the organization remains relevant in this fast-changing world.
6. Part of the legislative intent of this important reform was to also better equip and empower managers and staff; simplify work processes; enhance accountability and transparency; and most importantly to improve the organization’s capacity to effectively deliver mandates across the main pillars of its programme of work – that is **peace and security, development and human rights**.

7. To this end, our delegation believes that today's meeting marks the earliest opportunity for the Member States to start appreciating that the changes introduced in resolution 72/266B were well considered and are indeed showing discernible early signs of progress in the desired direction.

Mr. Chair,

8. Against this background, our delegation has taken note of the preliminary progress reported thus far in implementing the management reform. We welcome and encourage the Secretary-General's ongoing efforts in this regard as we also appreciate the current circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Beyond the structural reorganization of the former departments into two new ones, whose value addition we will seek to assess, we particularly welcome the efforts geared towards improving staff and senior managers' delivery and leadership capacity through, among others, training and we look forward to discussing this further.

10. We also consider that the tools put at the disposal of the organization for reporting, monitoring and evaluation of progress and assessing the benefits including an online benefits tracker system are equally important, and we would wish to also discuss this in greater detail.

Mr. Chair,

11. Our delegation also welcomes the steps taken by the Office of Information and Communications Technology, which plays a critical enabling role, in supporting greater synergy and coordination between the UN Secretariat and the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. We hope that this, together with the newly implemented Resident Coordinator system, will enable the organization to deliver as one.

12. The emphasis in advancing the Secretary General's commitment to transparency and accountability by having programme managers clearly capture programme plans, including results and deliverables, as well as recording progress on implementation against related performance measures has also not gone unnoticed by our delegation.

13. Most importantly, we would like to recall the decision to annualize the previously biennial programme budget through the ongoing pilot that started with the programme budget for 2020 with a view to improve the budgeting process. At this stage, we take note of the efforts of the Secretary-General and we will seek to appreciate both the positive and any challenges as well as unintended outcomes.

Mr. Chair,

14. While implementation of the management reform is still ongoing, our delegation is also aware that some events have been overtaken by time, and we will seek further discussions on the relevant areas including the full operationalization of the system of accountability and monitoring framework; the Global Service Delivery Model (GSDM); and the structural reorganization of the Secretariat. We will particularly seek clarity on the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the new departments and impact on coordination of their work.

15. We have taken note of the recommendations and observations of the ACABQ and the Board of Auditors on numerous aspects of the implementation of the reform, and our delegation will similarly seek further discussions and clarity on the issues they have raised.

16. Let me conclude, **Mr. Chair**, by acknowledging that while we are at the early stages of stabilizing the introduced changes, the Secretary-General has nonetheless made great effort in responding to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure business continuity for both the Secretariat and intergovernmental processes. We hope that lessons learnt will be adequately captured, to inform any further rethinking on the adequacy of the systems in place.

17. We wish to reassure that our delegation fully supports the importance of complete and expeditious implementation of the management reform, as well as all other decisions aligned to this reform. As usual, we express our readiness to engage constructively with all delegations with a view to concluding deliberations in a timely manner.

I thank you for your kind attention.