

CANZ Statement – Proposed Programme Budget 2021 and UN financial situation

Thank you, Mister Chair. First, please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of this important committee and we wish you great success in this important assignment.

I thank Secretary-General Guterres for presenting the Proposed Programme Budget for 2021 and Mr. Bachar Bong for his presentation. I have the honour today to speak on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and my own country Canada.

As the world faces the greatest crisis in generations with the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN remains the indispensable focal point for international cooperation to address global challenges that require global responses.

We welcome the SG's proposal for the second annual regular budget proposal and we congratulate him on the effectiveness of the management, development and peace and security reforms to date which have better allowed the UN to adapt to the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves.

We encourage the UN to continue in its reform efforts, including measures to work more efficiently and flexibly, such as the Global Service Delivery Model (GSDM).

As the pandemic exacerbates existing challenges faced by vulnerable populations, we are firmly committed to ensuring adequate funding for gender and human rights mandates, and shall resist any attempts to marginalize these questions. They are at the heart of the mission of the United Nations.

We also welcome the additional resourcing proposed to better reflect mandates in support of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda, and to assist Small Island Developing States, including those in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Despite the SG's call for a global ceasefire, conflict and violence continue in areas already facing humanitarian catastrophe. Our common efforts to ensure international justice and accountability for the most serious crimes and violations of international law must be fully funded.

As the pandemic's impacts on the UN's mandate implementation become better understood, we will support a level of resource and budget flexibility that allows for adaptation to evolving circumstances.

In this regard, we note our concern with the repeated and worsening liquidity situation faced by the Organization. CANZ 'long-standing record of paying our assessments in full, on time and without conditions, is an indication of our commitment to the United Nations and its capacity to deliver on mandates that we, the Member States, set. We want the budgets that we negotiate, not the cash on hand, to guide the UN's spending.

We look forward to working with all colleagues this session to reach consensus on a budget which provides the necessary resources to implement mandated activities to ensure that the UN is able to deliver on our shared objectives, and that a world facing the challenges of war, impunity, poverty and climate change are well served by all of us.

Thank you, Mister Chair

1