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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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UN Security Council Reform

**Statement by H.E. Mr Mitch Fifield
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the
United Nations**

Mr President,

This year marks the 75th anniversary since the establishment of the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Much has changed since 1945. The UN's membership has expanded from 51 to 193 states, and together we are facing new and complex global challenges, ranging from rapid technological advancement and disruption to unprecedented security, economic and health challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Against this backdrop, we need to think about what the next 75 years will look like for the UN, and how we can ensure it continues to deliver for all nations.

Australia has long been a supporter of meaningful reform that seeks to ensure the UN is fit for purpose, effective, open and transparent, and accountable to member states. The UN Security Council needs to evolve to ensure it can act swiftly and decisively in a rapidly changing security environment.

Mr President,

Australia has been consistent in urging for UN Security Council reform on three points:

First, to be relevant and effective, the Council needs to better reflect contemporary geopolitical realities, with greater representation for Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Second, to be more accountable to member states, the Council's working methods must be improved, including: better coordination with the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission and other partners; ensuring more use of coherent analytical information from across the UN system; and better consultation with troop and police contributing countries.

Third, better standards need to be developed on the use of the veto, so that its use is more transparent and limited.

Despite many years of discussions, progress on UNSC reform has been incremental at best. We urge the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) to move to text-based negotiations, which will build the momentum needed to effect change.

The IGN in the 75th session should be a direct continuation of the previous session, to avoid repetition. We should make the IGN a more open and transparent process, to which the rules of procedure of the General Assembly apply.

Mr President,

The urgency for reforming UN institutions is clear. We urge member states to unite in our commitment to make tangible progress towards UN Security Council reforms, so that the Council is better equipped to maintain international peace and security and better address the challenges of today and tomorrow.