

Formal Meeting of C5
Introduction of Peace and Security Reform agenda item
Statement by Counsellor David Yardley
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On behalf of the CANZ Group

(Check against delivery)

Thank you Mr Chairman, and thank you Madam Chef de Cabinet.

I would also like to thank the Chairman of ACABQ.

On behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand I want to make four brief points:

First, our consideration of this peace and security item is another marker in the road toward the Secretary-General's vision of a more flexible, responsive and effective United Nations.

The promise inherent in the changes to the peace and security architecture and the associated culture is a world where we can significantly reduce the risk of conflict and improve the UN's effectiveness at all stages along the peace continuum.

To achieve this we must again turn our collective political will into action in the Fifth Committee.

Second – colleagues – we have trusted the Secretary-General, as chief administrative officer of the UN, to present us with a package of proposals on peace and security reform and we must treat these as a package.

CANZ is strongly supportive of these proposals and is aware that they represent months of work and a careful balancing of interests.

But we must now be careful to not throw this balance out.

In particular, we think it is critical to ensure that the 'hinge' represented by the Peacebuilding Support Office is properly resourced.

That Office is an essential part of bringing about the integrated approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

And we should make sure that a drive for efficiencies or inflexible application of budget convention doesn't hinder essential parts of this package.

Third, as we look ahead to the next stages in this process we would emphasise the importance of planning now for a full and effective implementation of these reforms in both the spirit and the letter.

While the peace and security architecture reform represents more minor structural changes than the other reform tracks, it is underpinned by the same expectations for a very significant change in the UN's culture.

The proposals ask the UN, in particularly DPKO, PBSO and DPA and officers based in the field, to take new approaches as to how it does business day-to-day.

While this may be facilitated by the structural changes proposed it will ultimately require a commitment to a new approach.

One that looks past tradition, and puts concepts like integration, collaboration, prevention and a focus on effectiveness at the field level at the core of the UN's work.

This cultural change will require sustained efforts by every member of the Secretariat, Funds, Agencies and Programs, and the heavy lifting on the Member State side begins with the implementation plan for the reforms we will discuss in the coming weeks.

Finally, we note that these proposals extend well beyond the mandate and responsibility of any one body or institution.

All three reform streams are vital for a contemporary UN and taken together, these changes will ensure the UN truly implements the sustaining peace agenda – a change resoundingly called for by senior representatives yet again just a few weeks ago, at the highest-level meeting of 2018 so far.

With this in mind we would like to ask a question of you, Madam Chef de Cabinet:

We note that ACABQ recommended that 3 positions in the new PBSO not be funded –do you agree with this recommendation and what would be the impact on the underlying intent of these reforms of cutting these positions from the proposals?

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Know that we welcome your leadership, and that Canada, Australia and New Zealand will support you to achieve consensus and pass a resolution on these reforms at this session.