



United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov

Statement by Cherith Norman Chalet,
Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform
On Agenda Item 131:
Review of Efficiency: Accountability
Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly
Friday, March 6, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The United States would like to thank Under Secretary-General for Management Mr. Yukio Takasu for introducing the Secretary General's Fourth Progress Report on the Accountability System in the United Nations Secretariat and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing his Committee's report on the subject.

The reports before us provide an important update to member states on the implementation of enterprise risk management as well as results-based management, personal accountability, accountability in field missions, the link between UMOJA and IPSAS and procurement and ethics. As evidenced by the number of topics covered under this agenda item, my delegation firmly believes in the value of each issue because enhanced accountability is vital to improving the work of the United Nations. As my delegation has stated in the past, and it is worth repeating now, every dollar wasted through inefficiency, mismanagement, or corruption is a dollar that is not spent on achieving the United Nations' essential tasks.

Therefore, I would like to highlight a few issues in the Secretary -General's report on the accountability system.

The United States welcomes the progress made on enterprise risk management and the formal approval of the preliminary risk register which, among other things, summarizes the top strategic risks for the Organization. My delegation looks forward to learning more about how the UN is managing this preliminary risk register through risk treatment working groups. While we

understand that embedding enterprise risk management throughout the United Nations is a continuous process, as stated in the Secretary-General's report, we continue to advocate for its timely implementation.

In regards to results-based management, it is encouraging to note that there have been a number of tailored training courses for staff meant to improve the precision of budget preparation, program monitoring and reporting. It is important for the Secretariat to continue to monitor the impact of the training programs as well as to inform member states on the outcome of the pilot for strengthening self-evaluation capacity within the Department of Management.

Furthermore, the United States notes the ACABQ's concern regarding the need to ensure that a culture of accountability is embedded into the working habits of the Secretariat because without that, enterprise risk management will not fully improve the performance of the United Nations. As such, we also encourage the acceleration of the implementation of results-based management and continued monitoring and evaluation of the Senior Managers' compacts against the targets set out in their annual compacts. Moreover, we are interested to hear more about the managerial performance issues that the ACABQ highlighted since, for example, they call into question managerial performance related to the efficient use of the resources under their stewardship.

Additionally, the United States remains deeply interested in the issue of accountability in field missions, especially as it relates to conduct and discipline and sexual exploitation and abuse. We look forward to an update this session on the adoption, by the senior management team, of the new policy meant to ensure full implementation of the UN strategy to address misconduct in field missions through prevention, enforcement and corrective actions.

Relatedly, we are pleased that the pilot implementation of enterprise risk management took place at MONUSCO in January. We trust that it will be a fruitful experience and that lessons learnt will be shared with other missions when they conduct their own risk assessment. It is important for missions to have the adequate skill set necessary to conduct a risk assessment and my delegation is encouraged by the fact that training will be provided for this purpose to risk management focal points.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I trust that we can successfully adopt a resolution on accountability that enhances the work and reputation of the Organization drawing from shared interests in this area. Therefore, during this session, we look forward to partnering with member states to strengthen the accountability framework in the United Nations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.