



United States Mission to the United Nations

799 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov

**Statement by Isobel Coleman,
Ambassador for United Nations Management & Reform
At the Opening of the First Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee
69th General Assembly
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Thank you Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and my fellow delegates at this start of the first resumed session of UNGA 69. This session is unusually full with many important issues to address, some of which were deferred from the Main Session. But even with a full agenda and important decisions to be made, I am confident that we can finish this session within the allotted time frame. We are ready to engage constructively with colleagues to achieve this.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to first address the issues that were deferred from the main session. On all of the deferred issues, it is my delegation's expectation that we can work together constructively in the spirit of cooperation to tackle the areas where consensus has not yet been reached.

With regards to human resources management, we note there are several issues still to be reconciled; on one such issue, my delegation would like reiterate that the Secretary-General has broad authority to manage UN staff under his authority as the head of this Organization, and we will protect his prerogative in this matter. We hope that, during this session, delegations can refrain from efforts to politicize the budgetary and administrative issues before us. This should not be a forum for member states to undermine essential rights with respect to race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

On Umoja, we are encouraged by the progress that has also been made and believe that the item can be concluded in short order; on partnerships, we continue to hope that we can find a way forward that will enhance the Organization's work in this area and provide greater transparency to Member States. On CMP, we believe we have an opportunity to conclude the project and other outstanding decisions this session, but reiterate our belief that there should be a shared solution on financing the associated costs to minimize the amount that needs to be assessed. And finally, on recosting, we are fully aware of the differences of opinions on this issue, but I think we can all agree that the current volatility of the budget undermines Member States' ability to achieve fiscal responsibility. It is our hope that within this context, we can find ways to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, regarding the new agenda items that we are considering this session, I will not elaborate on each of them at this time noting that we will have more to say about each of these items when they are introduced. But I would note that many of the issues we are considering

provide important opportunities to bolster the ongoing work to make the Organization more effective and efficient and able to respond to critical needs around the globe.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I look forward to continuing to build relationships here as well as beginning a dialogue on how we can improve the decision making process within Fifth Committee. I was struck during my short time in the Committee last December how polarized we were and how ready we were to throw away the principles of consensus under which this Committee operates. Given the significant impact of the Fifth Committee's decisions on the Organization's work, it behooves us to ensure that the Fifth Committee can function in a rational way. We need to deescalate the overly politicized nature of our work and ensure that the decisions we are taking are fiscally responsible and improve the functioning of the Organization. I welcome efforts to address this including the meeting scheduled to improve the Fifth Committee process. We are prepared to actively engage in this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.