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**Statement by Cherith Norman, Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform,
Fifth Committee, Main Session of the 70th UN General Assembly
Wednesday, 23 December 2015**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Congratulations on successfully concluding this session on time and guiding the Bureau and coordinators in their work. Under your able leadership and guidance, we were able to complete our work before the upcoming holiday season, a rarity in this Committee. I would like to also acknowledge the hard work of Ms. Sharon van Buerle and her team. Their tireless dedication to provide the support we need to conclude our negotiations is immensely appreciated.

Mr. Chairman, this session was noteworthy for several reasons: the collaborative nature of the negotiations throughout and the ability to reach consensus on so many important issues is a testament of our collective commitment to enable the Organization to be effective and efficient and deliver its vital mandates.

We will continue to build on the critical decisions we have made this session such as on a regular budget that instills budget discipline; ensuring staff compensation is more modern, simple and cost effective; mainstreaming major business transformation initiatives; and guaranteeing major construction projects are properly resourced and governed.

So as we take a break from the Fifth Committee, I wish all of our colleagues, a happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year.