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**Statement by Isobel Coleman,
Ambassador for United Nations Management & Reform
At the Opening of the First Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee
70th General Assembly
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Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is good to see you along with our fellow Fifth Committee colleagues and the Executive Secretary of the Fifth Committee Ms. Sharon van Buerle and her staff.

Mr. Chairman, the Fifth Committee convenes again following a busy fall with many consequential decisions taken, but with much important work ahead of us too in this last year of the Secretary General's term. The SG has initiated several critical reform initiatives to make the Organization more modern, nimble and effective. This Committee has approved and continues to monitor those initiatives closely. Given where we are in the trajectory of reform, it is very important that we take advantage of all opportunities, both inside and outside of the Committee, to push forward with change and ensure that the reforms initiated by the Secretary General reach their full potential.

This session, we will consider the state of play on reforms such as mobility and flexible workspace. On others, such as Umoja, IPSAS and the ICT strategy, we continue to press in our daily interaction with the Secretariat for their solid implementation. For those reforms still in the development stage, such as the Global Service Delivery Model, we encourage the Secretariat to continue their thoughtful development. These are all vital pieces of an inter-locking change initiative to make the UN the best that it can be.

Turning to a few specific issues we will consider this session, we look forward to the consideration of the Board of Auditors' report on SHP and how we can continue to ensure good governance and accountability for this project. In addition, the BoA's report on ICT should also give us helpful insight into the challenges that remain in fully implementing a comprehensive ICT strategy for the whole Organization.

We will also consider several important construction issues. Establishing a rationalized maintenance program through the strategic capital review, and ensuring the most efficient use of space through flexible workspace strategies, are key elements of a wider strategy to improve

asset management and, in combination with related reforms like Umoja and the Global Service Delivery Model, will help optimize the UN global footprint.

In addition, we will consider funding requests to strengthen conflict prevention which is core to advancing peace and stability around the world. We are also interested in ensuring the special political mission in Burundi and other activities such as the Al Qaeda and Iran panels, are funded in order to achieve the objectives set by Member States. We will again consider the Secretariat's part in the Resident Coordinator system and how we can most effectively support this platform. And we look forward to seeing the SG's report on how the UN will reprioritize resources and activities to best support member states in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

There are other issues we will consider that I have not specifically mentioned, because my delegation will deliver separate statements upon their introduction.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to working with all partners in reaching the best decision on all matters this session.

Thank you.