

Statement of the Delegation of Israel

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Agenda Item 134: ICT:

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to speak in my National Capacity on agenda item 134: Status of implementation of the information and technology strategy for the United Nations.

At the outset, I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General, Mr Yukio Takasu [Assistant Secretary-General Atefeh Riazi], for introducing the report of the Secretary-General as well as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing the related report of the ACABQ.

Madam Chair,

ICT has a key role in allowing the UN to effectively and promptly implement its mandates across the globe. Technology and Innovation are constantly evolving, and the UN needs to continuously progress accordingly in order to apply the needed advancements in this field. Israel supports the ICT strategy introduced two years ago and welcomes the second annual update on its implementation.

Successful implementation will not only provide administrative and financial efficiencies, but more importantly, will help the organization deliver on its mandates. While we are encouraged by the steps taken so far by the secretariat and in particular the Office of Information and Communications technology, there remain areas that still need to be addressed.

Incorporating new technology and understanding the need for innovation is not enough, it is crucial to apply the technology affectively to ensure correct utilization. Without adequate training and dedicated personnel, advanced systems may not operate to its fullest potential. We must also consistently recruit training staff with the required skill-set in ICT, to ensure that all UN staff receive the training and guidance they require to operate new systems. Implementing the digital agenda means that off-site personnel can have access to reports and receive information in the field, providing enhanced mobility in their work. We welcome many of the examples of innovative applications noted in the SG's report.

Madam Chair,

A well-managed ICT strategy applied effectively can enhance efficiency and reduce costs. However, without the leadership of senior management in ensuring these new systems are used, we will not be able to utilize them to their fullest capacity. The

challenges of the past that necessitated a localized approach to ICT management have diminished and application of cloud technology now allows for centrally based management. This is simply standard procedure in many other large organizations, as this approach reduces duplication of work. At the same time we need to protect our information by facing the challenges in the field of Cyber Security. This is a critical step in safeguarding the work of the UN and providing a secure working environment.

We recognize the challenge of implementing the ICT strategy across the UN and support the ACABQ in emphasizing the need for all secretariat departments to fully comply with the ICT strategy, working together with the CITS to reduce duplicate systems. It must be made clear that innovation and technology is needed in order apply new strategies and deliver on mandates. While we all acknowledge the importance of reviewing and assessing the appropriate application of this strategy, we must make sure that we do not inadvertently block the vital reforms that are needed in this area.

Israel will continue to support the progress being made in this important field and we look forward to constructive discussions on this agenda item during the informal consultations.

Thank you Madam Chair.