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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: FIFTH COMMITTEE
13 October 2017

Improving the Financial Situation of the UN (on behalf of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand)

**Statement by H.E. Caitlin Wilson
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations**

(Check against delivery)

Thank you Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Chairman,

There are three points we wish to emphasise in our statement today.

Firstly, the importance of Member States with outstanding contributions paying as soon as is practical.

Secondly, the necessity of full, on time, payments to ensure stability.

Thirdly, that a better performing UN requires both investment and cash flow certainty.

On the first point, Mr Chairman,

CANZ remain concerned at the flow-on effects of the nearly \$1.1 billion dollars in unpaid assessed contributions to the regular budget, and the more than \$2.5 billion dollars outstanding in the peacekeeping budget.

In December 2015 and 2016, outstanding contributions coupled with inadequate reserve funds placed significant pressure on UN expenditure.

We hope this trend can be avoided in 2017.

Not only does it create inequity between those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions and those that have not, but it also compels those who contribute armed and police forces, specialised equipment and other resources, to shoulder this financial burden while waiting for outstanding contributions to be paid.

In a worst case scenario this could present risks to the consistency and stability of our presence and delivery in the field.

We join Under-Secretary General Beagle in urging all 57 Member States that have not yet paid their contributions to do so without delay.

On the second point, Mr Chairman,

CANZ delegations will continue to demonstrate our commitment to the work of the United Nations by endeavouring to pay our dues in full, on time, and without condition.

While we acknowledge all Member States are different, we urge all members to share this objective and meet their international obligations.

Differing financial years and legislative processes can present challenges, but timely payment is essential for predictability and stability.

Should issues arise, we encourage all eligible Member States to make use of the mechanisms the Organisation has in place to assist them with outstanding contributions.

On the third and final point, Mr Chairman,

CANZ wants a UN that can achieve its goals and deliver the mandates entrusted to it by Member States.

Equally, CANZ wants to see a United Nations that is coherent, nimble and efficient.

This requires that we all work together to ensure the best return on our collective investment in our Organization.

This is why we spoke, on Wednesday, in strong support of the Secretary-General's proposed reforms.

I would reiterate, this is not the time for "business as usual", from the Secretariat or the membership.

We, the Member States, must provide the United Nations with the support necessary to improve processes, develop cost-saving tools and adapt to a rapidly-changing world.

In conclusion,

CANZ delegations promote both fiscal discipline and innovation within the United Nations, but we note that neither can be fully achieved under the shadow of serious cash flow uncertainty.

Simply by paying on time, and in full, we can all help to build an improved United Nations, better able to address the challenges it confronts now and in the future.

Thank you.