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**Report of the Secretary-General on
Strengthening the Accountability System of the Secretariat under the New
Management Paradigm
(Eighth Progress Report on Accountability)
(A/73/688 and Corrigendum 1)**

Introductory statement by

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Madame Chair,

Distinguished Members,

I have the honour to introduce to you the Eighth progress report on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat “Strengthening the Accountability System of the Secretariat under the New Management Paradigm” (A/73/688 and Corrigendum 1), as requested by the Assembly in its resolution 72/303.

The report provides an update on the accountability measures that have been undertaken - and those that are in progress - in the context of the Secretary-General’s management reform.

The report is composed of three sections and two annexes: Section I introduces the report, followed by Section II which provides an update on three priority achievements that are integral to enabling faster, more sustainable progress in strengthening the accountability system under the new management paradigm:

- (a) Improving the system of delegation of authority;
- (b) Strengthening the implementation of results-based management; and
- (c) Establishing the Business Transformation and Accountability Division.

With regards to the improvement of the system of delegation of authority, on 1 January 2019, the Secretary General introduced a revised framework for delegation of authority emphasizing transparency, accountability and decision-making that is closer to the point of mandate and programme delivery.

Under this revised framework, numerous authorities that, historically, have been held centrally at Headquarters or other centralized offices, have now been delegated to entities across the Secretariat, expanding their decision-making authority associated with financial matters, administration of staffing, property management, and procurement of goods and services. This delegation has been accompanied by a strong “Accountability Framework for Monitoring the Exercise of Delegated Decision-Making Authority”.

The implementation of results-based management is very important to drive a results-based culture in the Organization, which is one of the main priorities of the Management reforms. For this purpose, on 1 January 2019, the Secretary-General established a dedicated results-based management function in DMSPC -within the Business, Transformation and Accountability Division- to work with individual departments, offices and missions to ensure that the results to be achieved are

reflected in planning documents and are reported to Member States and other stakeholders, ensuring that there is a strong linkage between the Organization-wide planning and budget documents, the senior managers' compacts and the individual staff workplans. The current report presents the progress made by the Secretariat in this area in 2018, and the actions that are foreseen for 2019.

The new Business Transformation and Accountability Division is expected to strengthen accountability by, inter alia, guiding and supporting managers in the implementation of results-based management, helping entities to embed the “three lines of defense” model in enterprise risk management processes, monitoring the exercise of delegated authority and guiding managers in the conduct of self-evaluations. In addition, its data analytics will inform decision-making and provide greater transparency around performance.

Section III of the report provides an overview of the status of accountability in the Secretariat against the six components of the accountability system, including the progress made in the current reporting period and the key deliverables going forward.

Finally, the report also contains three annexes:

- Annex I includes the Status of implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies during the period from 2008 to 2017, and
- Annex II contains a summary of progress in the action plan for the implementation of results-based management in the United Nations Secretariat, 2018–2021.

- Annex III provides details about the progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/303.

The Secretary-General remains committed to continuing to further strengthen the Secretariat's accountability system.

Thank you very much.