



**United States Mission to the United Nations**  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
[www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov](http://www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov)

---

**Statement by Brian Conroy**  
**Counselor, United Nations Management & Reform Section**  
**At the Fifth Committee, First Resumed Part of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**  
**Agenda Item 135(a): Procurement**  
**March 15, 2019**

---

*[As Delivered]*

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to thank Mr. Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management, Department of Operational Support, and Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing their respective reports.

With over \$3 billion spent annually on the procurement of vital goods and services within the Secretariat, including for peacekeeping operations and special political missions, it is critical that the procurement function as part of the broader supply chain management enterprise operates effectively, efficiently, transparently, and in line with industry standards and best practice. When proposing reform of this function, the Secretary-General identified vertical and horizontal fragmentation within the Organization and cited supply chain management and related procurement specifically as one of the largest challenges to the Organization. He noted that the timeline for a procurement exercise from identification to delivery of goods or services often exceeded 200 days.

As a result of the reform and a new integrated end-to-end supply chain management approach, we expect that the procurement function will continue to evolve to one that is more responsive and that effective checks and balances are in place, including the segregation of responsibilities between the commercial and technical functions throughout the acquisition process.

Madam Chair, we agree with the ACABQ that with the new integrated structure in place, a strong and operational accountability framework is imperative. Capacity assessment outcomes are key to this, as is the continued development of a clear, simple and transparent system for delegating procurement authorities. This includes institution of the appropriate systems, staffing and internal controls.

The United States believes that there are additional areas of opportunity for the UN to optimize service delivery and consolidate procurement activities, including through the full leveraging of Umoja, increased utilization of systems contracts and enhanced system-wide collaboration and cooperation on procurement matters. We also encourage further progress on implementing the solicitation methodology in long-term air charter services. The Board of Auditors also has made a number of observations that we encourage the Secretary-General to address, including those related to further professionalization of staff in the procurement function.

In closing Madam Chair, my delegation looks forward to learning of concrete measures that are being implemented to expedite the procurement timeline, while at the same time ensuring proper oversight and transparency. We look forward to working with all delegations and partners on this issue in order to reach consensus. Thank you.

#####