



# New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Te Māngai o Aotearoa

**UNGA74: Fifth Committee: Pattern of Conferences and the Joint Inspection  
Unit's Report on Enhancing Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

**Statement on behalf of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**

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Mr Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I have the honour to speak today on behalf of Canada, Australia and my own country, New Zealand.

CANZ welcomes the Joint Inspection Unit's report on enhancing accessibility for persons with disabilities to conferences and meetings of the United Nations system, as well as its recommendations.

We particularly welcome the strong emphasis of engaging and consulting with persons with disabilities through the report.

Our group places great importance on the mainstreaming of disability inclusion across the UN system. This system-wide review provides another vital resource in this mainstreaming process.

We appreciate the comprehensive nature of the report. In particular that the recommendations give the Secretariat, and wider United Nations system, practical ways to improve accessibility and coordination on disability issues in the short-term, as well guidance and continual improvement in the long-term.

We expect to see these recommendations implemented as part of the broader United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, and call on the Secretary-General to be ambitious in his timeline of implementation.

For example, we would recommend that the Secretary-General aims to implement recommendation three on the appointment of focal points ahead of 2021.

The presence of focal points early on can act as a catalyst for accelerating and progressing the other recommendations.

Mr. Chair,

We have discussed at length in this room the importance of moving the United Nations forward through reforms and a change to the culture of the organisation.

We see mainstreaming of disability inclusion as another vital part to changing the culture of this organisation.

This is the time to leverage, share and standardize good practices across the system, and for the United Nations Secretariat to lead by example.

Now is the time for the United Nations to move from words to action in regards to disability inclusion.

Thank you.