

Agenda item 142: United Nations Common System

CANZ Statement

Delivered by Tegan Brink, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia

25 October 2019

Thank you Mr Chair and to the three presenters this morning.

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

Mr Chair,

CANZ places significant value in the UN Common System, including the principle of providing equivalent compensation for similar work between different organisations. We highly value the work of the ICSC and consider it essential to enhancing the effective functioning of the organisations in the common system.

We note the decisions taken by the ILO Administrative Tribunal in relation to the Post Adjustment for Geneva-based staff. The Tribunal's decision called into question the legality of the process which has been used by the ICSC to determine Post Adjustments around the world for over 20 years.

In particular, the decisions sow confusion with respect to the legality of the previous 2010 Post Adjustment in Geneva and have resulted, in our view, in an untenable situation of two pay scales in the same duty station.

The Universal Postal Union's governing board recently agreed to implement the decision even though it was not party to the ILO Administrative Tribunal's ruling.

We respect the rule of law and decisions of UN tribunals, but note with concern that these decisions could have significant implications for the wider Common System. Therefore, there is

some urgency for members to consider ways to tackle these challenges and restore confidence of staff and agencies in the UN Common System and ICSC's determinations.

Mr Chair,

CANZ will continue to work with other Member States with the aim of ensuring that the Common System is preserved and that the authority of the ICSC to determine Post Adjustments is reconfirmed and clarified.

With respect to the recommendations in the ICSC's report, we will consider them carefully and participate constructively in the negotiations on this agenda item.

I thank you.