

Statement by H.E. Mr. Jonathan Allen, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations at the Opening of the Main Session of the Fifth Committee of the 74th General Assembly

Thank you Mr Chair,

I would like to congratulate you and the Bureau on your election. We are confident that you will guide this Committee towards a successful and timely conclusion of our programme of work. I can assure you of my delegation's full support.

Our sincere thanks to the Controller, Chandru Ramanathan, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Cihan Terzi, for your continued dedication and support to this Committee. And to Lionel Berridge, Acting Secretary of the Fifth Committee and his team, and the support staff who make possible our deliberations.

Mr Chair,

Let me start by saying that the UK associates itself with the statement made by the representative of the EU on behalf of EU member states.

The UK Government's policy is that the UK will leave the EU on 31 October. After we have left, we will continue to work closely with the EU in pursuit of our shared interests and values, and will remain active members of this Committee. As negotiations in this Committee will continue past the 31 October, I wanted to take this opportunity to set out the UK's priorities for the session. The UK will continue to be one of the strongest proponents of a strengthened, effective and efficient UN.

Last session, this Committee made important decisions that supported the implementation of the Secretary-General's vision of a reformed, responsive and accountable UN. We helped put the Organisation on a more stable financial footing

for peacekeeping. Unfortunately, we also saw indecision and division, rather than action and decision-making by consensus. We hope to see a return to the latter.

This year, we have before us an equally important workload. For the first time since the 1970s we will consider an annual budget. It is incumbent on us all to ensure that the UN has the programme budget resources needed to carry out the many mandates given to it by Member States. Those resources must be used efficiently and effectively. We also have the opportunity to enhance the UN's most valuable asset – its people – through better human resources management policies and practices, including measures to realise a UN that truly reflects the diversity of the people it serves. We look forward also to engaging on the Common System, matters of accountability and special political missions.

We acknowledge the magnitude of the task before us, but through our collective commitment and constructive engagement – as well as getting reports in good time - we are certain we will reach a timely outcome by consensus.

Thank you Mr Chair