

**Statement to the General Assembly
Fifth Committee**

**Closing of the Second Resumed Session of the 75th
Session**

**On behalf of Canada, Australia, New Zealand
(CANZ)**

Delivered by Vahan Galoumian (Canada)
Counsellor (Defence and Security)
June 29, 2021

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you Mr. Chair.

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and my country Canada.

Let me first thank you and all members of the Fifth Committee Bureau for your work during this 75th Session of the General Assembly.

We would also like to thank members of the UN Secretariat, in particular USG Catherine Pollard and the Controller, ASG Chandru Ramanathan.

Special thanks go to members of the Fifth Committee Secretariat who continue to provide steady support to our Committee – day in and day out.

- Lionel
- Yanto
- Geraldine
- Sarah
- Lindsay
- Ilene
- Rogena – thank you for your commitment, your professionalism and your outstanding work, we could not complete our negotiations without your able support.

Mr Chair,

For the second year in a row, the Fifth Committee achieved consensus on a range of important peacekeeping agenda items and long-standing issues such as the secondment of active-duty military and police personnel - despite the difficulties of remote working conditions.

We thank all delegations for their engagement and flexibility throughout the session. Together, we ensured that UN peacekeeping operations continue to be adequately financed and resourced to deliver on their mandates at a time of uncertainty.

However, we regret the delays in achieving consensus on the vast majority of agenda items. As the Controller reminded the Committee last week, our late decisions have a negative impact on the administration of the United Nations; they bring unnecessary uncertainty to peacekeeping operations; and they place unreasonable demands on UN staff.

We are also disappointed that the Committee was unable to achieve consensus on its cross-cutting policy resolution for the fifth year in a row. The last cross-cutting policy resolution, which provides guidance to peacekeeping operations on important elements such as combatting sexual exploitation and abuse, the protection of civilians and enhancing performance and accountability, now dates back to 2016.

In the absence of a cross-cutting resolution, delegations have opted to address policy issues in a small group format in the context of budget discussions. This informal process is not inclusive and is inadequate in meeting the needs of communities served by UN peacekeeping operations.

We know peacekeeping policy issues are complex. Views and interests differ across the Committee. But it's incumbent upon us to seek consensus through compromise. We must start early, think creatively and engage constructively to achieve consensus; we can no longer afford to accept the continuing deferral of this agenda item as a *fait accompli*.

In that regard, let me reiterate the commitment of Australia, New Zealand and Canada to engage in the spirit of compromise on all UN peacekeeping policy issues and our willingness to engage constructively in deliberations aimed at improving the working methods of the Fifth Committee.

Finally, Mr Chair, as the Second Resumed session focuses largely on UN peacekeeping operations, let me conclude by paying tribute to the men and women who serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world.

Thank you.