

Mr Chair,

Firstly, I would like to express my delegation's thanks to you, to the Bureau, and the ACABQ for your work not just during this second resumed session, but also throughout this 75th session. As ever, we are grateful to the UN Secretariat and the Fifth Committee Secretariat, for their tireless efforts.

Mr Chair,

As a Committee, we were able to steer our complex negotiations - once again carried out remotely - towards adequate, cost-effective financing for Peacekeeping Operations. The UK delegation, as ever, strove to take full account of budgetary evidence provided to us, and I take this opportunity to reiterate our support for efficiently managed resources, that allows full mandate delivery, consistent with agreed reforms and policy priorities.

We regret, however, that the late conclusion of our negotiations jeopardized the continuous operation of Peacekeeping Operations. We all pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel who support UN Peacekeeping in our statements. But we should ensure that our words match our actions, and that the pace and progress of future negotiations supports the contribution they make to international peace and security, and does not put that at risk. We can and should do better.

Mr Chair,

We were also disappointed that once again the Committee was unable to agree a cross-cutting policy resolution. We hope the constructive discussions under that item this year will lay the ground for a cross-cutting policy resolution next year.

Nevertheless, we recognise the value of the policy package agreed, including on important topics such as performance, safety and security; accountability; protection of civilians; women, peace and security, and transitions. We welcome the inclusion of language on environmental impacts and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. But we regret that once again, no cross-cutting SEA resolution was agreed. And recalling that Peacekeeping is the highest contributor to climate change within the UN system, we hope that guidance will in future be agreed on enhancing energy efficiency, given the high importance the General Assembly has placed on addressing this huge challenge.

Finally on peace keeping items, it is regrettable that constructive, advanced negotiations on the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, and Regional Service Centre in Entebbe ended with an ACABQ outcome, which does not reflect the positive engagement we saw from delegations with substantive interest in these items.

Mr Chair,

Turning to non-Peacekeeping items, our agreement on the flexible workplace of the UN will allow the Secretary General enough time to assess properly the evolving needs of the organisation. This is important as we respond to the new ways of working presented by the pandemic, and seek to maximise the opportunities they provide.

And we would like to express our strong appreciation that all members of the Committee were able to work constructively to agree a way forward on the issue of seconded personnel.

Looking ahead, the UK hopes the Committee will continue to support more effective working methods, learning lessons from the Covid-19 experience, and taking measures to avoid late night and weekend working wherever possible, as well as continuing to build trust and collaboration in pursuit of consensus-based decision-making. We look forward to working with the incoming Chair and Bureau members, as well as the rest of the committee, to do that.

Finally, I wish all colleagues a restful and restorative summer.