



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

Statement by Richard Croker, Minister-Counsellor and Ambassador to the Fifth Committee of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mission to the United Nations at the Closing of the First Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee of the 76th General Assembly

31 March 2021

Mr Chair,

Let me thank you, and the members of the Bureau, for your leadership this session and guiding us to a close. And let me also thank Lionel Berridge and his team for their guidance and hard work through this session. Lastly, my thanks to all colleagues, including those who have continued to work without interpretation in this session.

Mr Chair,

Firstly, let me begin by welcoming the areas we have made progress, and where the committee was able to work together to bridge gaps and find compromises, including:

- On organisational resilience, which is critical, as we know from our experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- On agreeing funding for UNSMIL that will provide adequate, cost-effective resources to the ceasefire mechanism, in support of the national peace process, and regional peace and security.

We also hope that we have laid the groundwork ahead of the second resumed session in regards to the financial situation report, in order to

put the UN on a better financial footing, including by addressing the sizeable credits due to be returned to member states in 2023.

But there are numerous and significant areas where we were unable to succeed as a committee.

On human resources management, we salute the efforts of all delegates who worked tirelessly to find a consensual way forward over several months, bringing us closer together than we have been in previous years, however, we were ultimately not able to bridge the divide despite my delegation and others moving from long-standing positions. I welcome the suggestion from my colleague from the G77 and China that there may be a silver lining in having laid a basis for future discussions.

While on ASHI, where there are significantly future liabilities we can take steps to address, and supply chain management, where it remains an anomaly that the UN has not moved forward on sustainable procurement in line with the 2030 Agenda, we have also failed to take the necessary actions.

These failures gives us significant cause for concern. We must re-double our efforts in this regard in the future sessions if we are to transform the UN in the way that my US colleague said.

Finally, Mr Chair, I have already set out the UK's position in regards to the HRC revised estimates. While we welcome the outcome of the votes, and the provision of some resource for the mandate, we remain deeply concerned that this was brought to a vote in the way that it was. While we remain concerned by the level of resource, we welcome your action Mr Chair in putting forward a compromise proposal.

Let me finish by paying tribute to the staff of the UN around the world, wherever they may serve, in recognition of their dedication and resilience in achieving the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and delivering the mandates and programmes of this Organisation.