



United Kingdom
Mission to the
United Nations

Statement by Ambassador James Kariuki, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mission to the United Nations at the Opening of the Main Session of the Fifth Committee of the 77th General Assembly

Monday 3 October

Mr Chair

Let me first congratulate you and your bureau on your appointment. We are confident you will steer this Committee towards a successful and timely conclusion of our programme of work.

Let me also thank the UN Secretariat, Fifth Committee Secretariat and support staff for everything they do to enable our deliberations. Thanks are also due to the ACABQ and the GA subsidiary committees who this Committee looks to for clear, technical and evidence-based advice, within their respective remits, to inform our work.

Mr Chair,

We have before us many important issues and an opportunity to support a strengthened, more effective and efficient United Nations that can deliver positive change.

We will consider the Secretary General's annual programme budget for 2023. We have a responsibility to the UN and the people it serves to ensure that the Organisation has the correct level of resource to carry out all the mandates given to it by Member States. In these difficult global economic times, it is particularly important for the UN to demonstrate that it is using those resources efficiently and effectively, and to deliver results that make a real difference to those in need.

The United Kingdom wants to see a United Nations that has the people and capabilities it needs to respond swiftly, effectively and with agility to the demands it faces, whether that is dealing with the damaging fallout from Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, or helping us get back on track for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The UK looks forward to hearing more about the Secretary General's assessment of how the annual budget has benefited the UN, in particular in terms of more effective mandate delivery.

We also look forward to engaging on range of important issues including: the International Civil Service Commission's latest proposals and on how to safeguard the integrity of the Common System; the revised proposal to modernise conference facilities in the UN Offices in Nairobi; on ensuring important peacebuilding work is on a solid footing; and on special political missions.

Mr Chair,

Although we are increasingly returning to a more recognisable pre-pandemic normal, we must not give up the good practices and ways of working we have developed over the past few years. In particular, we should continue to make best use of our time and keep unnecessary out-of-hours working to a minimum.

We have an immense task before us. Through constructive engagement and genuine commitment to consensus-based decision-making, we are confident that we will achieve a good, timely outcome. You have my delegation's full support in this.

Thank you