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**Review of the efficiency of the
administrative and financial functioning
of the United Nations**

Statement by Switzerland and Liechtenstein

presented by
Mr. Matthias Dettling
Second Secretary

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Our delegations welcome the introduction of the Secretary-General's reports under this agenda item as well as the report of the ACABQ and the related reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Mr. Chairman,

Accountability is first and foremost about honouring the commitments of the Secretariat and its staff both vis-a-vis the Member States and vis-a-vis the Organisation's beneficiaries. An organisation that is accountable to its stakeholders will enjoy credibility and be perceived as legitimate. Improving accountability is therefore one of the most important tasks for the United Nations. The adoption of a definition of "accountability" two years ago by the General Assembly marked an important step in this regard by providing the Organisation with a clear direction for further refining its accountability framework.

Our delegations would like to raise the following three points with regard to the report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 64/259:

First of all, Switzerland and Liechtenstein acknowledge that the development of an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat is a complex process and we welcome the steps the Secretariat has already taken to improve this system. At the same time, we agree with the ACABQ that the present report should have provided better evidence of the progress made up to now. More systematic key performance indicators and relevant statistical data should be used to illustrate the progress made to provide more clarity.

Secondly, we commend the Secretary-General on the progress made towards the development of the enterprise risk-management framework. We are encouraged by the positive experience of applying this framework in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and in the Capital Master Plan. We also welcome the development of an enterprise risk-management and internal-control policy. In this context we will carefully study the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a dedicated enterprise risk-management and internal-control function within the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management.

Thirdly, our delegations look forward to receiving new proposals in the area of results-based management and performance reporting. We attach great importance to these two critical aspects of the accountability framework and we think that this Committee should be informed as soon as possible on the progress made by the Secretariat on this matter.

Mr. Chairman,

Switzerland and Liechtenstein strongly encourage the Secretariat to continue and intensify its efforts and commitment to the establishment of an effective accountability

system. While clearly more time is needed, we caution against an open-ended process that will continue to occupy this Committee for years to come. The scope and timeframe of the work ahead should thus be clarified by answering some fundamental questions, including: What do we exactly want to achieve in each field of the accountability framework? When will the establishment of the framework be completed and when will the ensuing monitoring phase start?

Switzerland and Liechtenstein stand ready to engage constructively in discussions on all of the above-mentioned issues with a view to improving the United Nations Secretariat's accountability system.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.