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80th session of the General Assembly
Fifth Committee

Closure of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the eightieth session of the General Assembly

New York, December 30, 2025

Statement read by Amb. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

Unofficial translation

Madam Chair,

Allow me first to express my appreciation to you and to the Bureau for their leadership. I would also like to thank the Secretariat, all support staff, as well as the facilitators, for their invaluable support.

Madam Chair,

The UN80 initiative was launched with the aim of improving the effectiveness, coherence, and cost-efficiency of this Organization. Our shared and primary objective must therefore be to ensure that the United Nations does not emerge weakened from the reforms, but rather strengthened. This principle has guided Switzerland's positions in all discussions on UN reform for many years, and it remained at the core of Switzerland's stance throughout the negotiations in this Commission.

To enable the United Nations to face unprecedented challenges, we have had to accept significant post abolition. We regret the unavoidable layoffs of staff, as personnel are an organization's most valuable asset. Allow me once again to express our deep gratitude to all UN staff. We also wish to convey our solidarity with those who are directly affected by the consequences of the decisions we have taken.

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From the beginning of the negotiations, Switzerland has sought to engage constructively and in good faith, paying particular attention to the proposed relocations. Unlike temporary adjustments, relocations fundamentally alter the structure and functioning of the Organization. While we do not oppose them as such, we believe they must be based on a solid analysis demonstrating that they are carefully designed. Relocations can offer an opportunity to strengthen the Organization's impact, provided they avoid fragmentation and preserve the coherence of the UN system.

We regret that some of our proposals were not given more thorough consideration. We take note of the outcome and respect the collective decision that was taken.

Switzerland remains convinced that reform is necessary, but that a process driven solely by the imperative of rapid change, guided by a short-term vision and lacking the necessary analysis, risks weakening the United Nations.

Madam Chair,

Beyond the continuation of deliberations related to UN80, we believe it is essential that this Commission keep liquidity issues at the top of its priorities. In this regard, we welcome the progress achieved during this session.

Such results give us the confidence needed to jointly shape an Organization fit to meet the challenges of the future. Switzerland hopes that this shared understanding will guide our work over the coming year, in a true spirit of transparency, collaboration, and mutual trust.

I thank you.