High-level plenary meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations – New Zealand statement

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Mr President

When the world gathered in San Francisco seventy five years ago we stood together in the shadow of global war, at the crossroad of a historical moment, when the need for multilateralism was undeniable.

As we gather today to celebrate the seventy fifth anniversary of the United Nations, we should remind ourselves how remarkable it is, this place where the world comes together to discuss problems that are greater than any of us alone. How remarkable it is, that through collective action we give practical effect to the vision of the UN Charter. That when we speak of the United Nations, we speak of ourselves.

Together we, the United Nations, have achieved extraordinary things over the past 75 years. The latest session next week offers us further milestones on biodiversity, gender equality and disarmament. Each event serves as an example of our enduring collective commitment to overcome the significant challenges we face. We must not stop striving for more collective action.

Mr President

For New Zealand, “The Future We Want: The UN We Need.” is both a call and a question. A call which demands that all of us step up to lead in shaping our collective future. It also requires us to question, listen and reflect back at our past to see how we can reimagine a UN that can best serve the world today.

The UN75 Global Dialogue has given us the chance to hear the voices of people around the world, particularly youth. The common themes of improved basic services, addressing inequality, and meeting the challenge of climate change are clear. We hear their voices, and we would be wise to listen to them.

The UN we need to face our current and future challenges is not the same one that was founded in 1945. The UN must continue to adapt and remain relevant as the world around us changes at an ever faster rate.

Mr President

New Zealand is proud to have been amongst the founders of this organisation. But we are prouder still to be part of an organisation whose membership today reflects the world as it is: a diverse planet with untold challenges but also with untold potential.

We have all the tools to address our shared challenges; we just need the collective will to use them.
Thank you.