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Agenda item 115

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

Extension of the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In section XI, paragraph 22, of its resolution [59/276](#), the General Assembly decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting any precedent, that the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security would serve for one non-renewable term not exceeding five years.

2. On 30 May 2019, the Secretary-General announced the appointment of Gilles Michaud (Canada) as Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security for a five-year term that began on 1 July 2019 and is due to end on 30 June 2024. Mr. Michaud's leadership has been pivotal in steering the Department of Safety and Security through extensive reforms initiated in response to the complex, simultaneous global crises affecting United Nations operations. Those reforms, ranging from agile security management to global workforce diversification, enhance the Organization's ability to deliver programmes swiftly and effectively in high-risk environments.

3. Under Mr. Michaud's guidance, the Department addresses the challenges posed by the increasing complexity of crises, evolving from 5 to 41 high- and very high-risk contexts since its establishment in 2005. Initiatives such as the Emergency Response Unit, the Operational Resilience Section and improved security information analysis strengthen the Organization's capacity to provide essential assistance globally and safeguard the well-being of staff and partners. As these transformative reforms progress, sustained oversight and trusted leadership by Mr. Michaud are deemed crucial, especially amid ongoing crises demanding the active engagement of the Department.

4. There is a strategic need to ensure continuity in security leadership at this moment of simultaneous crises and given ongoing reforms of the Department and their potential impact on the United Nations security management system as a whole. The Secretary-General wishes, therefore, to propose that the General Assembly approve, the relevant provisions of resolution [59/276](#) notwithstanding, the exceptional extension of the term of Mr. Michaud as Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security by two years, until 30 June 2026. That would allow Mr. Michaud to effectively steer the Department's transformative process during the critical implementation phase and at a time of international turmoil.

