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Statement by Stephen Lieberman, Minister Counselor,  
on  
Agenda Item 139:  
Human Resources Management  
Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly  
Monday 21 October 2013

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to thank Ms. Catherine Pollard, ASG for Human Resources Management; Ms. Joan Dubinsky, the Director of the Ethics Office; Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ; Inspectors Cihan Terzi and Papa Louis Fall of the JIU for their respective reports and Mr. Kenneth Herman, the Senior Adviser on Information Management Policy Coordination for the CEB, for presenting his notes, and those of the Secretary-General, on the reports of the JIU.

While we will reserve most of our comments for the November 6 formal, let me echo colleagues: the UN cannot do its critical work without the dedication of its staff. Consequently, the United States sees HRM as one of the agenda items most critical to the success of the Organization and looks forward to working with all delegations on relevant HRM issues in the weeks ahead.

Mr. Chairman, on the proposed amendments to the staff rules and regulations, my delegation would like to support the inclusion of sexual exploitation and abuse as a specific instance of prohibited conduct under the basic rights and obligations of staff. We believe that this is useful progress towards full adherence with the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy.

Mr. Chairman, on the Ethics Office report, we join the ACABQ in commending the efforts of the Ethics Office in ethics outreach, training and education; procurement ethics; and financial disclosure. We also commend the Ethics Office on starting its report on independent and comprehensive review of the existing protection against

retaliation policy and practices. We remain concerned with the low number of reporting and that as the Ethics report states the policy "continues to be utilized as a grievance and labor dispute mechanism," and we hope that the review will address these issues.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.