



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
799 United Nations Plaza, New York NY 10017

**Statement by Ambassador Isobel Coleman,
U.S. Representative for United Nations Management and Reform
before the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee
On the
Conclusion of Work of the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)
At the Second Resumed Session of the 70th General Assembly
Wednesday, June 8, 2016
(delivered on Monday, 13 June 2016)**

[As Delivered]

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me first express on behalf of my delegation our sincere appreciation for the kind words and thoughts expressed by delegations this afternoon regarding the horrific events in Orlando this past weekend.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to acknowledge with gratitude your leadership during this session and throughout the 70th session. We join others in thanking the Fifth Committee Secretariat staff, ably led by Ms. Sharon van Buerle and her committed team for their hard work, courtesy and professionalism. We are further grateful to the bureau and all the coordinators for leading us to a successful conclusion this session.

My delegation would also like to thank in particular Under-Secretary-General for Field Support Mr. Atul Khare, and the DFS staff for their efforts, in particular Rick Martin and Mercedes Gervilla. We remain further grateful for the support of Maria Costa and her team, and to all Secretariat colleagues who made themselves and their staff available at all hours of the day and night to facilitate our discussions.

United Nations peacekeeping continues to provide critical support for the maintenance of international peace and security and it is our collective responsibility to ensure it is properly resourced. The United States remains, as ever, a strong supporter of peacekeeping. We express our gratitude to all of the personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations as well as those at Headquarters supporting the work of peacekeepers in the field. We again pay tribute to those peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace, including peacekeepers serving in MINUSMA just a few short days ago.

Mr. Chairman, the United States commends the consensus reached by the Committee in approving a 2016-2017 budget that enables effective mandate delivery and backstopping support,

including in force generation, safety and security, conduct and discipline and in human rights, while also realizing efficiencies. The 4.8 % reduction in the 2016/2017 budget from last year's budget responsibly reflects the decreasing deployment of uniform personnel. We also note the adoption of a cross-cutting resolution for the second consecutive year which provides important strategic guidance on the financial and budgetary policies that govern peacekeeping activities. This resolution underscores the need, for administrative reforms that enable more flexible, rapid and agile mandate delivery in peacekeeping operations, especially in light of the more complex and dangerous environments in which peacekeepers increasingly operate.

Mr. Chairman, guided by the principle that one substantiated case of SEA is one too many, we are heartened that this Committee was able, through constructive dialogue, to reach consensus on additional measures to combat sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The Committee's decisions, including transferring withholdings for substantiated cases of SEA to the Victims' Assistance Trust Fund, demonstrate *our own* determination to improve the Organization's ability to prevent and respond to SEA through a victim-centered approach. Working together in partnership, Member States and the Secretary-General are taking important measures to enhance transparency and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

This session, this Committee considered several items beyond the normal agenda of the 2nd resumed. The High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, and Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security all called for strengthening the United Nations' conflict prevention and mediation capacity. The additional posts approved will provide needed support to DPA's regional divisions and the Policy and Mediation Division which we strongly support.

While we did not have sufficient time to consider the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda this session, we look forward to a more fulsome discussion on the issue during the upcoming 71st session as well as the deconfliction of the 5th Committee schedule and the CPC.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all my colleagues in this room for the constructive spirit in which we approached this session, and for the trust we have built in discussing these important issues.

I would like to wish all of our colleagues who will be leaving the Fifth Committee this summer best wishes for success and happiness in their new assignments, in particular my colleague and fellow DPR Mr. Ionnis Vrailes, and for the dream team of Ms. Corinne Kitsell, Mr. Yotam Goren, Mr. Francesco Presutti, and Mr. Matthias Dettling. Our delegation has enjoyed and benefited from working with you over the years, and we will miss each of you.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we commend once again your stewardship and guidance over the 70th session and wish you the very best as you move beyond the Fifth Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.