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Statement by Cherith Norman.
Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform,
Fifth Committee, 2nd Resumed Part of the 71st UN General Assembly
Agenda Item 149: Cross-Cutting Issues
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[Check against delivery]

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to thank Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, for his remarks, and Ms. Maria Costa, Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division, OPPBA, and Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for introducing their respective reports.

My delegation attaches great importance to the issues considered under this agenda item, as they address strengthening the effectiveness, efficiency, oversight, and accountability of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Peacekeeping operations are critical instruments for addressing international peace and security. My delegation strongly believes that it is the collective responsibility of this Committee to ensure that the significant investments made by Member States for this purpose are used responsibly and deliver intended results. Where peacekeeping falls short of our collective expectations and requirements, we as Member States must endeavor to improve its performance. As we noted earlier in our opening statement, this Committee has a responsibility to ensure that peacekeeping budgets reflect actual requirements, are driven by realistic planning assumptions, and reflect efficiencies from ongoing management initiatives. The UN must continue to work in smarter and more efficient ways. We will pursue these objectives vigorously this session.

The United States welcomes the commitment of the Secretary-General to reform UN peacekeeping, and we will work collaboratively in the Fifth Committee to advance peacekeeping reforms. This includes: making peacekeeping more flexible and agile in response to mission startup, expansion, crisis, and drawdown; strengthening mission leadership and environmental management; and, leveraging modern technology to improve mandate delivery and enhance safety and security. My delegation is also committed to initiatives that improve performance in the field, including generating required capabilities, improved metrics and assessment tools, as well as accountability for poor performance and misconduct, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, my delegation notes the many issues under consideration by this Committee. We stand ready to work with other delegations to reach consensus on a resolution that will enable us to responsibly fulfill our administrative, budgetary and management oversight of peacekeeping,

ensure the most efficient delivery of mandates in the field, and advance reforms that delivery tangible results on the ground.

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