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**Statement by Cherith Norman, Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform  
On Agenda Item 134: Supporting the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda SDG and Addis  
Ababa Action Agenda  
Before the Fifth Committee  
Main Session of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly  
November 30, 2016**

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Thank you Madam Chair.

I would like to thank Dr. Nabarro for introducing the Secretary General's report on this agenda item and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu for introducing the respective report of the ACABQ.

Madam Chair, as my delegation has stated before, the United States strongly supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The agreements reached last year are transformative and provide a framework for Member States, the private sector, and civil society with support from the United Nations to achieve sustainable development goals. We firmly believe that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda ultimately rests with Member States, not the UN, and must incorporate efforts from this diverse range of stakeholders, leveraging the efforts of those most able to implement change to achieve the SDGs.

With respect to the report before us today, we recognize there has been some attempt to reorient how the UN supports development such as through changes in the Development Account. However, it appears there still has been no attempt made to reform the Secretariat to more effectively deliver on the SDGs nor to reorient existing activities to address the SDGs in a comprehensive manner. We view these steps as the most important the UN can take to support the SDGs. It is what is required to seize this transformational moment for the UN. Instead, the report again requests resources with no clear mandate.

In consideration of this item, we must embrace a different approach that does not simply add resources to the existing work and bureaucracy of the UN. A comprehensive review of existing efforts must be undertaken with the purpose of eliminating the duplication that currently exists across the UN's development entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and ensuring greater coordination.

Further compounding our concern about providing additional resources is the lack of clear information we have received on how the commitment authority approved last fall for 2016 has been utilized or how it has advanced the UN's support of Agenda 2030. We are concerned that DESA appears to be building up its staff in New York when the focus should not be on the

Secretariat in NY but rather on field based activities that could impact Member State implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Madam Chair, we have expressed our serious concerns with this report. But we do hope to engage with other delegations in a fruitful dialogue so that we advance the sustainable development goals in the best possible way and improve the UN's support to what should be a transformational agenda – for the UN and for the world.

Thank you.