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**Statement by Cherith Norman, Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform
On Agenda Item 149: Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of Financing UN Peacekeeping
Operations: Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
Fifth Committee, Main Session of the 71st General Assembly
71st UN General Assembly
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[Check against delivery]

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to Mr. Victor Kisob, Officer-in-Charge, Office of Human Resources Management, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General. In addition, my delegation recognizes the work of the Department of Field Support, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Improving the UN's Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in continuing to implement measures to address the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. I would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for the presentation of the ACABQ report.

The United States firmly supports the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse, and we welcome the forty plus measures he has introduced to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, to enhance enforcement of the zero tolerance policy, to assist victims, to increase transparency, and to hold perpetrators accountable.

As mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, we look forward to the finalization of the protocol on victims' assistance to ensure that the victim assistance strategy adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 is being implemented. Our approach to this issue must remain victim-centered. Even if we address all other aspects of sexual exploitation and abuse, yet do not protect the victims, we will have failed. We welcome the establishment of the High Level Steering Group, and the creation of the Special Coordinator's Office, to ensure a system-wide approach in responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. As we learned from the CAR Panel report, policy fragmentation and gaps in the UN system on this issue have real, and serious, consequences.

While there are no specific proposals that require Member State approval on sexual exploitation and abuse this session, this does not mean we should be idle. There are initiatives outlined in this report that only Member States can undertake in their national capacities to address sexual exploitation and abuse committed by their nationals: both civilian and uniformed. As we have previously stated, preventing and addressing SEA is an "all of UN" issue, and we must bolster our words with concrete action. We welcome the examples of Member State good practice cited

in the report of the Secretary-General and look forward to seeing these practices shared in an online platform so that all Member States can benefit and continue to learn from each other.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to commend the Secretary-General for his continued commitment to the zero tolerance policy. We look forward to continue working constructively working with all delegations and with the UN system as a whole, as we continue to improve our response to this scourge.

Thank you.