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**Statement on  
Agenda Item 148: Support Account  
Fifth Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Resumed Part of the 74<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly**

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**May 11, 2020**

We thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Controller, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the ACABQ, for their respective reports. We also thank the members of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for providing their report on the budget of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) through the ACABQ to the General Assembly.

The United States recognizes the value of backstopping peacekeeping operations at Headquarters to support mandate delivery. However, we are confounded that the Support Account budget continues to grow despite the decreasing number of civilian and uniformed personnel in missions, the downsizing of UNAMID and the closure of MINUJUSTH. This increase also occurs against the backdrop of the Secretary-General's reform agenda, now entering its second year of implementation. We expected to see the promised results of greater accountability, transparency, and efficiency.

The General Assembly made clear in resolutions 69/308 and 70/287 that support functions should be scalable to the size and scope of peacekeeping operations. Like the ACABQ, and as we stressed last year, the United States continues to believe that backstopping functions in Headquarters should reflect the decreasing field mission footprint.

There are several other important issues for the Committee to focus on this session, such as after-service health insurance contributions and the settlement of death and disability claims, including outstanding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder claims.

My delegation looks forward to working constructively in the coming days with all delegations in approving a responsible budget for backstopping functions and reaching consensus on this very important agenda item.

Thank you.