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*(Check Against Delivery)*

**Statement by Cherith Norman Chalet, Minister Counselor for United Nations Management and Reform on the Conclusion of Work of the Fifth Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, at the Second Resumed Session of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**New York, NY**

**June 24, 2015**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to acknowledge with gratitude your leadership and commitment during this session. We join others in thanking you, the Fifth Committee Secretariat staff, the bureau and all the coordinators for leading us to a successful conclusion of this session. We would also like to thank the Secretariat, and particularly Donna Maxfield, Maria Costa, and Rick Martin, for their support and for making themselves and their staff available at all hours of the day and night to facilitate our discussions. My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat and ACABQ for their efforts to ensure the timely issuance of documents and for enabling the Committee's informed decisions on peacekeeping.

The United States remains, as ever, a staunch supporter of United Nations 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 believe that the outcome of this session is important for the global peacekeeping partnership, and it clearly demonstrates that the Committee can address very difficult and complex issues.

Mr. Chairman, the adoption of a cross-cutting resolution for the first time since the 66<sup>th</sup> session illustrates that the Committee has seized the opportunity to provide strategic guidance on the financial and budgetary policies that govern peacekeeping activities. At the same time, the Committee has identified savings and efficiencies that will not diminish the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in mandate delivery.

The Committee has also taken important decisions with regard to the Organization's prevention, enforcement and remedial action of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Recent events serve as stark reminders of how SEA is an issue that threatens the principles upon which this Organization was created and can tear at the very fabric of peacekeeping. Through this Committee's decisions, including support for the Secretary-General's determination to strengthen measures in the zero tolerance policy, we will improve the Organization's ability to prevent and respond to allegations of SEA and increase transparency and Member State accountability.

On the Global Field Support Strategy, we have welcomed the progress achieved and the benefits realized, including those related to shared services in the implementation of the strategy. We look forward to seeing the lessons learned from this initiative incorporated into future change initiatives. We have recognized the importance of the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, and through this resolution, the Committee has taken efforts to ensure the operational and managerial independence of the Centre. My delegation will continue to support the initiatives undertaken as part of the Strategy, as they are mainstreamed into the work of the Secretariat, including through the important work under supply chain management.

With the adoption of the UNMEER resolution, we recognize the efforts of the Secretary-General and other actors in tackling the crisis caused by the Ebola outbreak, and for the dedicated service and commitment of the personnel of the United Nations system who have been engaged in the effort to combat the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease. But we also recognize that UNMEER has served its purpose and can be drawn down responsibly.

Through the support account resolution, we have acknowledged the importance of the work undertaken in many different areas of peacekeeping, including in Security Sector Reform, Conduct and Discipline and in Human Rights.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank all my colleagues in this room for the constructive spirit in which we have approached this session, and for the trust we have built in discussing these issues. I would like to wish all our colleagues who will be leaving the Fifth Committee this summer best wishes for success and happiness in their new assignments, in particular Ms. Sabine Mondorf of Germany, Mr. Sho Ohno of Japan, Ms. Carmel Power of the European Union, and Messieurs Conrad Scheck and Jon Quinn of Canada.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we commend once again your efforts in reaching consensus on the 2015/2016 peacekeeping budgets and on the policy measures that will allow missions to fully deliver on their mandates. We look forward to continuing to work together in this Committee to help support peacekeeping operations in future sessions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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