



United States Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by Cherith Norman, Counselor,
On Agenda Item 136: Improving the Financial Situation of the UN
May 24, 2012**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to join other delegations in thanking Assistant Secretary General and Officer in Charge of the Department of Management Warren Sach for his presentation last week and for the statement made today by Assistant Secretary General and Controller Maria Eugenia Casar. The United States Government takes its international obligations very seriously and the Obama Administration continues to make great effort to pay its bills on time and in full.

It is well known that the amount reflected by the United Nations as owed by the United States is distorted because of differences in U.S. and UN fiscal years and other factors. Perhaps it is less widely known that as the largest contributor to the United Nations, the United States contributed over \$7.7 billion in its Fiscal Year 2010 in assessed and voluntary contributions across the United Nations system. Since May 2011 alone, we have paid over \$2.6 billion in regular budget, peacekeeping, international tribunal and capital master plan assessments. This does not include the voluntary contributions we have made to various funds and programs and other entities. To suggest that the United States is not meeting our financial obligations to the United Nations is both wrong and patently absurd.

The United States remains committed to the United Nations and its vital role in the world to maintaining peace and security, providing development and humanitarian assistance and promoting human rights.

Thank you.