

US Statement on the 10th Annual Progress Report of the Capital Master Plan

Good morning, Mr. Chairman,

The United States looks forward to discussing the Secretary-General's tenth annual progress report on the Capital Master Plan (CMP) and the associated ACABQ, OIOS and Board of Auditors reports. My delegation would like to thank Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under Secretary-General for Management; Mr. Michael Adlerstein, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of the CMP; Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, Chairman of the ACABQ; Ms. Carman Lapointe, the Under-Secretary-General for Office of Internal Oversight Services; and Mr. Liu Jiayi, the Chairman of the Board of Auditors, for their respective reports.

The United States reaffirms its strong support for the CMP and acknowledges the significant progress made to date, including the nearly-complete reoccupation of the Secretariat Building and rehabilitation of the Conference Building. We appreciate the dedicated efforts of ASG Adlerstein and the Office of the CMP in achieving these crucial milestones.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report but notes that the current CMP budget shortfall still stands at \$399 million. While this is \$30 million less than earlier this year, it is still too high. While we note the Secretariat's responsiveness to the concerns raised by Member States and that he did not request an additional assessment, the United States continues to insist that the CMP be delivered on time and on budget and that there be no further assessments for the project. We welcome the Secretary-General's proposals to reduce this shortfall and will further explore these options in informals. We also welcome any additional value engineering and other efforts to produce real savings.

Mr. Chairman,

To ensure that the project is delivered on time and on budget, my delegation believes that the CMP must use industry best practices, processes and oversight to estimate the expected completion costs for the project and to execute against those projections. My delegation notes

that the ACABQ, OIOS and the Board of Auditors have concluded that this has not always been the case and believes that the Secretary-General should do everything possible to apply the analysis, recommendations and lessons-learned set forth in their reports.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, on behalf of my delegation, I want to express our appreciation for the offers of assistance made by the Secretary-General and UN staff to the Host City in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, as well as for the kind words offered by our Fifth Committee colleagues today, and to convey my hope that everyone in the UN family has emerged from the storm relatively unscathed. In addition, we extend our sincere sympathies to the people and governments of our Caribbean neighbors who also suffered great losses from this storm.