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**Statement by Aisha Sabar
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On Agenda Item 129: Procurement
Before the Fifth Committee
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The United States would like to thank Assistant Secretary General for Central Support Services Stephen Cutts for introducing the Secretary General's report on procurement and the Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), Mr. Babou Sene, for introducing the Committee's report on this agenda item. We also thank Mr. Cihan Terzi and Mr. Ken Herman for introducing their respective reports.

Madam Chair,

We want to take this opportunity to commend the Secretary General's efforts to modernize the procurement function of the United Nations. With over \$3.2 billion spent annually on the procurement of goods and services, the United Nations is a major buyer in the global economy and we are pleased to see that the UN Procurement Division has undertaken several initiatives to bring the organization's processes in line with industry best practices. These include the changes in the transition to a new solicitation methodology for long-term air charter requirements, consolidated procurement through the Regional Procurement office in Entebbe, streamlining of vendor databases, and the initiation of an electronic tendering pilot, to name a few. We are pleased to see that these initiatives have also created a level playing field and business opportunities for new vendors, including vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Madam Chair, the United States believes that transparency in the procurement process is of the utmost importance and to that end encourages the Secretary General to continue strengthening internal controls through practices such as the independent procurement challenge system. Finally, as noted in both the Secretary General and the ACABQ reports, more can be done to achieve economies of scale in the supply chain process. We expect Umoja to eliminate duplication in the procurement process and we encourage the Secretary General to realize these benefits as soon as possible.

Thank you Madam Chair.