



United States Mission to the United Nations

799 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov

Statement by Mr. Brian Conroy, Counselor for UN Management and Reform

On Agenda Item 148:

Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of Financing UNPKOs:

“Cross-Cutting Issues”

Before the Second Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee

69th General Assembly

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank Ms. Tucci-Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller; Mr. Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support; Ms. Wainaina, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management; Ms. Lapointe, Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; and, Mr. Ruiz Massieu, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the many reports that will be considered by this Committee.

From the outset, I would like to pay tribute to those peacekeepers who have given their lives in the cause of peace, including those peacekeepers mentioned earlier today.

Mr. Chairman, this agenda item and its related reports present an opportunity for this Committee to positively support United Nations peacekeeping, and to provide strategic guidance on the policies that govern peacekeeping activities. Peacekeeping has witnessed significant reforms over the past decade, and my delegation believes that we must continue to build on that progress and strengthen capacities to deliver on mandates. To that end, the United States looks forward to working closely and constructively with all delegations on these issues in order to arrive at a positive outcome during this session.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to highlight a few of these issues today.

As the Global Field Support Strategy is mainstreamed into the Secretariat’s work, we will continue to support the initiatives undertaken as part of the Strategy. This includes important work under the four pillars of: financial framework and strategic resourcing; human resources management; shared services; and, supply chain management and modularization. We recognize the benefits already realized through: expedited and streamlined service delivery to field

operations; strengthened resource stewardship and accountability; staff safety and quality of life improvements; and, a reduction in environmental impact.

Peacekeepers often operate in remote and difficult conditions with limited infrastructure. Field support must therefore be characterized by efficient and effective solutions that take into account these conditions. Drawing on the lessons learned from the Regional Service Center in Entebbe and other similar shared services initiatives, my delegation intends to carefully review the Secretary-General's proposal for a second shared service center to ensure that the needs of peacekeeping are best served.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, my delegation notes the reduction in the overall number of sexual exploitation and abuse allegations over the past year. On its face, this is a promising development; however, the full story is not told through numbers alone, and we share the OIOS concerns regarding the underreporting of sexual exploitation and abuse allegations. While Member States and the Secretariat have taken steps to strengthen the Organization's response to sexual exploitation and abuse in the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial action, more needs to be done by all stakeholders, including through enhanced Member State accountability.

With regard to reporting on cross-cutting issues, we support the Advisory Committee's view that the annual overview report should provide strategic recommendations for United Nations peacekeeping, including on the effective and efficient use of resources. We welcome the recommendation for a streamlined overview report that focuses on new developments, policy changes and management challenges to help shape this Committee's discussions.

In closing, the United States recognizes the Secretary-General's achievements to date in reforming management practices in United Nations peacekeeping. We look forward to working together in this Committee to help support peacekeeping operations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

####