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Statement by Ambassador Isobel Coleman,  
U.S. Ambassador for United Nations Management and Reform  
At the Opening of the Second Resumed Session of the Fifth Committee  
69<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
May 4, 2015

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation looks forward to working with you and other colleagues as we consider substantial and consequential issues related to peacekeeping this session.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some preliminary comments regarding the issues that this Committee will consider in the weeks ahead. My delegation remains committed to this Committee's vital role in closely scrutinizing the requests of the Secretary-General to ensure that the peacekeeping budgets reflect actual requirements, are driven by realistic planning assumptions, and incorporate prudent management initiatives. In reviewing the budget requests, we commend the Secretary-General's continued efforts to identify efficiencies.

New and emerging threats on the ground serve as stark reminders that peacekeeping continues to operate in difficult and dangerous environments. We take this opportunity to recognize those dedicated peacekeeping professionals, and we pay tribute to those who have given their lives in the cause of peace.

This harsh operating environment has required ongoing adjustments to the mandate or posture of several missions, including in UNDOF and UNMISS. We further note that the deployment to MINUSCA is

ongoing, and that MINUSMA will continue to expand its presence in the north to stabilize key population centers.

In this very fluid environment, my delegation welcomes many of the strategic and management initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to help ensure that resources match the mandates, including the strategic assessments of missions, civilian staffing reviews, and military capability studies. We view the work of the Office for the Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as critical to addressing systemic challenges in peacekeeping, including identifying gaps that impact mandate delivery.

The implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy will come to a conclusion next month, and the Secretariat will continue to mainstream the strategic approach of the Support Strategy into its work. My delegation strongly supports the concept of shared services for peacekeeping.

We place importance on the Secretariat's implementation of the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping. Technology and innovation can indeed be force multipliers, but they need to be embedded into the organizational culture in order to be truly effective. We support many of the Report's findings and recommendations, including fostering a culture of innovation within the Organization and making better use of open source information, as these will enhance decision-making.

Performance is critical to maintaining support and credibility of UN peacekeeping operations. We continue to support stronger measures in combating sexual exploitation and abuse, and will press for further accountability on these issues. We also support strengthened oversight to prevent and detect corruption, fraud and abuse.

We look forward to working closely with all delegations to reach consensus on the 2015/16 budgets and policy measures that will allow missions to fully deliver on their mandates.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we commend your continued efforts to improve the working methods of the Committee writ large and stand ready to assist in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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