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**Statement by Cherith Norman Chalet, Minister-Counselor  
on  
Agenda Item 144(j): ACABQ Operational Arrangements  
Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly  
Wednesday, November 25, 2015**

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I would like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing his report on the operational arrangements and conditions of service of the Committee

Mr. Chairman,

The United States respects and values the role of the ACABQ and its crucial plays in the oversight of UN programs and resources. As such, we are interested in ensuring the ACABQ fulfills its full potential as an independent expert body of the General Assembly.

This issue has been before the Committee for several years, but no resolution has been found because the focus was on the conditions of service of the Advisory Committee members and not enough on the working methods. In March, the General Assembly addressed a compelling need related to the working conditions of the ACABQ and granted access to UN health care benefits. But in order to be able to see a comprehensive picture of reforms needed, we requested a report from the Advisory Committee that outlined various measures of how the Advisory Committee should operate.

The report before us today still only gives a selective picture of what is needed to truly reform the Advisory Committee and does not suggest a more comprehensive way forward such as establishing a code of conduct or cooling off period. These elements and others must be included in whatever changes are made to improve the ACABQ.

My delegation stands ready to engage, but cannot support only selective reform.

Thank you.