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**Statement by Cherith Norman Chalet, Minister-Counselor
on
Agenda Item 134: Umoja/ERP
Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly
Thursday 19 November 2015**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to thank Mr. Yukio Takasu, Mr. Salhina Mkumba and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu for introducing the reports of the Secretary-General, the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last several years, the Organization has embarked on an ambitious and transformative reform agenda. Central to this agenda is Umoja, which as a tool paired with mobility and other reform initiatives, will enable the Organization to be reborn through the Global Service Delivery Model.

As the first step in this process, Umoja faced powerful headwinds, and the early days were beset with delays and budget overruns. But in a testament to the desire of member states to see a more modern and effective Organization, and the collective will of its staff and management, momentum is now clear and irreversible, with Umoja successfully going live in Nairobi and other duty stations away from UN headquarters earlier this year and here at the UN Secretariat in New York just days ago. We thank the Umoja team and its capable leadership who made heroic efforts, working around the clock in the final months, to get Umoja up and running in New York this fall. We know there will be ongoing challenges as implementation continues, but we are confident these challenges can be overcome as the project progresses and lessons learned are continually applied.

Now we must ensure Umoja lives up to its promise. We are encouraged that the Secretary-General plans to bolster business reengineering capacity to continue to better leverage the solution. We must ensure that the focus remains on the post implementation opportunity to streamline and restructure business processes. We expect the Secretary-General to deliver qualitative and quantitative benefits that more than justify the time, effort and investment in Umoja.

We look forward to engaging constructively on the details of the progress report in the coming weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.