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Statement by Cherith Norman, Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform

On Agenda Item 135: Programme Planning

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The United States highly values the potential of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the only intergovernmental body within the United Nations with the mandate to examine the totality of the Secretary-General's work program. It is uniquely situated to hold the Secretariat accountable for results and determine which programs, sub-programs or program elements are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or effectiveness, and recommend, as appropriate, their curtailment or termination.

However, according to a report by the Board of Auditors in June 2012 (A/67/5 (Vol. I)), there is limited consideration of outcome-level performance information in the CPC review to feed into results-based budgeting in the United Nations. Too often, CPC recommendations lack critical program analysis, deliberations are duplicative of discussions taking place in other forums, and decisions fail to provide meaningful improvements to the organization's strategic framework. As a result, the United Nations is unable to robustly assess whether it is using its resources cost-effectively for the results it desires.

This is unacceptable, but we believe the 55th session marked a turning point for the CPC. The CPC Report from this session reflects a renewed commitment to promoting accountability for program results and ensuring the efficient use of resources. We commend the Committee for updating the *Revisions to the Regulations and Rules governing Program Planning* for the first time since 2001. We are also pleased that the final decision adopted on the Secretary-General's Results Based Budgeting initiative emphasizes the need to take concrete and specific measures to develop stronger strategic frameworks that clearly demonstrate the impact of programs. These are noteworthy improvements, but real progress will ultimately depend on demonstrable and sustained implementation of these recommendations.

The United States is pleased to have engaged constructively with members of the CPC during the 55th session, and we look forward to continuing this momentum in

Fifth Committee considerations regarding strategic planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation.