



United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov

Statement by Cherith Norman, Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform
Agenda Item 134: Proposed regional restructuring of the
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Main Session, Fifth Committee, 71st UN General Assembly
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Thank you, Madame Chair.

I would like to thank the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Kate Gilmore, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for the introducing their respective reports.

The US welcomes the proposed regional restructuring of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We agree with the Secretary-General that moving staff out of headquarters in Geneva and into the field improves the Office's effectiveness and efficiency, including in responding to emerging crises. The restructuring will also create hubs of regional human rights expertise and eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy in UN headquarters.

We believe that Member States, UN country teams, regional offices, and other development, peace, and security partners will benefit from this field-focused approach and enhance this critical pillar of the United Nations.

We look forward to a productive and engaging discussion with other delegations on this important agenda item.

Thank you.