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Statement by Ambassador Maura Connelly Senior Advisor for United Nations Management & Reform First Resumed Part of the 71st General Assembly, Fifth Committee March 31, 2017

Thank you, Madam Chair.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to convey to you my sincerest appreciation for your guidance and assistance this session. Over the past few weeks, this Committee reached agreement on several important items. On accountability, we look forward to learning more of the Organization's efforts in Results Based Management. While we welcome the Organization's revised whistleblower protection policy, we believe that the Secretary-General must continue to take concrete measures to ensure a culture of protection for those who report misconduct. On Special Political Missions, this Committee approved resources for the Joint Investigative Mechanism and the DPRK Panel of Experts to ensure continued mandate delivery.

Madam Chair, those achievements notwithstanding, my delegation is disappointed with some of the outcomes of our discussions. Taking appropriate decisions in ensuring that limited resources are directed to where they are needed most is the essence of this Committee's work, and we believe that we missed some opportunities this session. Agreements eluded us on several important issues, including on procurement, the contingency fund and the resident coordinator system. It is also notable that we were unable to agree on greater efficiency and cost-saving measures on air travel, including with regard to standards of accommodation for travel.

As the second resumed session approaches, my delegation will continue to push for proper and full consideration of the important agenda items related to peacekeeping. We will closely examine where we can bring significantly greater efficiency and cost-savings, and we will continue to underscore and promote the importance of a consensus-based approach.

Madam Chair,

In closing, I want to thank you for your engagement during this session. I would also like to thank Ms. Sharon van Buerle and her team for their dedication and support to the Committee's work, as well as the efforts of the interpreters, the sound engineers, and all who helped facilitate these discussions. We will continue to look to you, Madam Chair, and Ms. van Buerle's team for guidance and support in the upcoming second resumed session.

Thank you.