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**Statement by Ms. Cherith Norman Chalet**

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**Minister Counselor for UN Management and Reform**

**On Agenda Item 136(c) : Update on the Proposed Regional Restructuring of the Office of  
the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Fifth Committee, First Resumed Session of the 72<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly**

**March 16, 2018**

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*[Check Against Delivery]*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to thank \_\_\_\_\_ for presenting the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed regional restructuring of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We would also like to thank the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, for presenting his Committee's report.

Mr. Chairman,

As it seeks to improve the mandate delivery of OHCHR in a cost-effective manner, the United States remains supportive of the Secretary-General's proposed restructuring. We view this restructuring as an important opportunity for member states to further support the principles espoused in the Secretary-General's UN system-wide reform efforts, including enhancing support to the field. This proposal will bring OHCHR services closer to the point of delivery, in part through the redeployment of 21 posts out of Geneva to regional offices. It enables OHCHR to more efficiently and effectively provide technical support to its wide range of stakeholders. Despite all of these proposed improvements to OHCHR organizational performance, it is notable that the proposal remains cost neutral. Mr. Chairman,

OHCHR began this reform exercise several years ago through a thorough and considered review of its operations. That review resulted in an evidence-based proposal that enables OHCHR to more effectively carry out its mandate, and ensures that the UN continues to undertake its critical work in the area of human rights. The United States would therefore encourage all delegations to carefully consider the sound merits contained within the proposal and work in a collaborative manner with the goal of a successful outcome this session.

To that end, my delegation stands ready to engage constructively on the substance of the proposal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.