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Statement by Cherith Norman Chalet
Acting Deputy Permanent Representative
On Agenda Item 135: Umoja
Fifth Committee, Main Session of the 74th UN General Assembly
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[As delivered]

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Umoja is one of the most important and transformational projects undertaken by the Secretariat to date notwithstanding its initial governance and project management challenges. As the Secretary-General notes in his report, Umoja is a key enabler for modernization and reforms in the administration of the United Nations. We further believe Umoja is essential in providing greater transparency and better financial management of UN resources.

Indeed, as noted by the Board of Auditors, Umoja is a complex, high value project, and is crucial to the efficient and effective management of the Organization. With these complexities, comes the continued need for robust project management and risk assessment and mitigation measures. We concur with the Board of Auditors' recommendations regarding these and other challenges mentioned in this years' report.

While the United States commends the work that has been done to reduce the operational costs of the project and the efforts to achieve both the quantitative and qualitative benefits outlined in the progress report, we are concerned that full implementation of Umoja will be delayed further and cost more. We still fully expect the benefits to be realized over the long term that was part of the initial cost benefit analysis that led to the approval of this project.

Mr. Chairman,

Member States have long supported the principle need for an enterprise resource planning system for the United Nations system and provided the Umoja project with funding, guidance, and encouragement. Its full implementation should not be delayed further.

We look forward to constructive engagement on this important agenda item during our session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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