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**Statement by Ambassador Patrick F. Kennedy
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Agenda Item 154: Cross-Cutting Issues
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Check Against Delivery

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Ms. Fatoumata Ndiaye, Under-Secretary-General for the Office of Internal Oversight Services, Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Ms. Aruna Thanabalasingam, Director, Administrative Law Division, Office of Human Resources, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the ACABQ, for producing their respective reports.

United Nations peacekeeping operations play an irreplaceable role in promoting international peace and security. The United States greatly values UN peacekeeping operations and will continue to support them. Financial support is an essential element of a peacekeeping operation's success, and we will work with other delegations in this Committee to ensure that missions have the necessary financial resources. But we cannot overcome the challenges facing peacekeeping with resources alone. Not only must resources be allocated appropriately, but the Fifth Committee has a unique responsibility for ensuring that the Organization's administrative and budgetary policies and procedures enable, rather than hamper, mission success. How often has this Committee heard about a UN policy that caused delays hiring crucial staff, deploying troops, procuring critical assets, or, in the worst case, effectively protecting civilians or UN personnel from violence?

The Secretary-General has made great progress in many of these areas, as outlined in his overview report. We welcome his efforts and look forward to further discussing them, particularly those related to: mitigating threats to the safety and security of peacekeepers, increasing gender parity, ensuring aviation procurement is aligned with industry best practices, and standardizing support functions. My delegation fully supports implementation of the Secretariat's environmental strategy, including data collection efforts and the use of key performance indicators to measure progress. We will also request more information on steps taken by the Secretariat to enhance performance measurement and accountability for peacekeeping operations, including those to implement the Fifth Committee's mandate to develop and implement an execution plan for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System across all missions.

Mr. Chairman, this session we will also consider the reports of the Secretary-General on special measures for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The United States strongly supports the Secretary-General's efforts to implement the zero-tolerance policy for SEA. We would like to express our appreciation for the

efforts of the Conduct and Discipline Service, the Victims' Rights Advocate, the Special Coordinator, and all field-based personnel who have worked tirelessly to support victims of SEA, to advance accountability for perpetrators, and to strengthen prevention measures.

We welcome the progress detailed in the most recent special measures report, particularly on system-wide efforts to improve service provision and protection for victims of SEA. Victim support is of paramount importance in our struggle against SEA. We look forward to a more in-depth discussion of the system-wide gaps in victims' support, and what actions the Fifth Committee can take to address them.

Despite the progress achieved, the scourge of sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, persists across the UN system. As this year's report details, many of the challenges in eliminating SEA in UN peacekeeping are also present in UN agencies, funds and programs, and humanitarian actors. We note with concern the rise in allegations against implementing partners, which once again demonstrates the necessity of combatting SEA in a system-wide manner. SEA is clearly not confined to UN peacekeeping. However, as the Fifth Committee, we are limited to the administrative aspects of the Secretariat and UN field operations. We must continue to support the work of the Secretariat for the uniformed and civilian personnel under our authority, and urge all UN agencies, funds, and programs to do the same. We must call upon the Secretary-General, as the head of the Organization, to lead by example and encourage coordination among these various entities. We also call on all troop- and police-contributing countries, and countries of nationality of civilian personnel, to ensure perpetrators are held accountable.

Finally, my delegation would also like to express our appreciation for OIOS's contributions to improving UN peacekeeping. As an independent oversight entity, OIOS provides a unique perspective to Member States and the Organization through its evaluations, audits, and investigations, improving our decision-making.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation fully supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to address the challenges facing UN peacekeeping today. Although we fully appreciate the challenges of remote negotiations, we believe consensus on many of these issues is possible. We stand ready to engage constructively with all delegations to achieve that consensus. Thank you.