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**Statement by Ambassador Patrick F. Kennedy
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Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

The United States pays tribute to the brave uniformed and civilian personnel who serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world. The environments where many of these operations are deployed are increasingly hazardous, and too often peacekeepers have made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace. We honor them, and those who continue to risk their lives, particularly in the current global crisis of COVID-19.

I would like to thank the UN Controller, Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, as well as Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the ACABQ, for producing their respective reports. I would like to further thank Lionel Berridge and his able team, along with all the Secretariat staff who support us, answer our numerous questions, and provide us with guidance throughout these negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, the United States strongly believes UN peacekeeping operations play a vital role in creating the space and trust necessary to find political solutions to threats to our international peace and security. For peacekeeping operations to be effective, they must have the resources to implement the mandates set by the Security Council. No mission should be unable to protect civilians, to promote human rights, to support rule of law institutions, or to defend its own personnel, because it lacks the necessary funding. Mr. Chairman, my delegation commits to working constructively with all Member States to ensure that UN peacekeeping operations have the political and financial support they need to be effective.

We are carefully examining the Secretary-General's 2021/2022 budget request of \$6.47 billion for 12 peacekeeping operations. We are conscious of hardships caused by COVID-19, and we commend the Secretariat and the missions for their prudent and innovative response to the obstacles imposed by the pandemic last year. The Organization's agile response to the shifting realities of COVID-19 has been enabled in many ways by the Secretary-General's management reforms. We continue to support these reforms, and we urge the Secretariat to demonstrate more examples of greater effectiveness and efficiency as a result of their implementation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as a Committee we must consider our role in the administrative and budgetary policies that guide peacekeeping. For the last four sessions, this Committee has been unable to reach consensus on a cross-cutting policy resolution. Our continued inability to provide this guidance is an abdication of our responsibility to missions on the ground and the Secretariat who support them. There are critical issues facing UN peacekeeping today that require our action, including: ensuring safety and security of peacekeepers, combatting sexual exploitation

and abuse, enhancing performance measurement and accountability, improving service delivery to missions and to troop- and police-contributing countries, and implementing environmental safeguards. In this regard, we look forward to receiving more detailed information about the execution plan for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System across all missions, which the Committee mandated last year. This year, my delegation is hopeful that we will be able to reach consensus on a cross-cutting policy resolution to address the challenges to peacekeeping operations.

We look forward to working with all delegations to finish this session in a timely manner, to ensure UN peacekeeping operations are able seamlessly to carry out their critical mandates.

Thank you.