



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement of the United States of America
70th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 167
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
Statement by Mark Simonoff, Minister Counselor for Legal Affairs
November 16, 2015**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The United States, as always, is proud to serve as host country to the United Nations. The United States takes its role as host country seriously, and it takes all of its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement seriously, as well. We believe that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country is a valuable forum in which to discuss relevant issues relating to this large, diverse, and dynamic diplomatic community in New York. The Committee's meetings provide the host country with an opportunity to address the concerns of the UN's diplomatic community.

The host country greatly values the cooperation and the constructive spirit of the Committee in its work. We also appreciate the interest and participation of numerous observer delegations in the Committee's meetings. The Committee's deliberations this past year focused on mitigating delays in visa issuance, ensuring the safety and security of UN missions, as well as issues involving banking and financial services. The host country remains available to assist all Missions in this respect into the future. In addition, the host country encourages delegations to bring any issues to the host country bilaterally, if they prefer. The Host Country Section in the U.S. Mission always strives to assist delegations to find a solution to the issues that arise.

The United States would like to express particular appreciation for the efforts of the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, Ambassador Nicholas Emiliou. We also wish to thank the United Nations Under Secretary General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, Miguel Serpa Soares and Assistant Secretary General for Legal Affairs, Stephen Mathias, for their assistance and guidance in the Committee's work. We also wish to recognize the efforts of Ms. Jessica Elbaz, and Surya Sinha, Secretaries of the Committee. We would also like to express our appreciation for the many valuable services provided to the United Nations diplomatic community by our colleagues in New York City government and its component municipal agencies – especially during this year's high level week which was busier than most as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the UN.