



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017-3505

Statement by the United States
71st General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 165: Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country
Mark A Simonoff, Minister Counsellor
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Mr. Chairman,

The United States is proud to serve as host country to the United Nations. We recognize that we are both providing an important service to the UN community as well as fulfilling our many responsibilities.

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country is a valuable forum in which to discuss relevant issues relating to the presence of this large, diverse, and dynamic diplomatic community in New York City, one of the largest, most diverse and most dynamic cities in the world. The Committee's meetings provide the United States with an opportunity to listen to, understand and address the concerns of the UN community.

The United States greatly values the cooperation and the constructive spirit of the members of the Committee in its work and the assistance provided by the United Nations Secretariat in this regard. We also appreciate the interest and participation in meetings of numerous observer delegations. The ability of delegations that are not members of the Committee to participate in the Committee's meetings has helped make the Committee's deliberations open and more representative of the UN diplomatic community.

The Host Country Section of the US Mission has worked hard to assist Member States during the past year. For example, between January 1, 2016 and October 28, 2016 more than 4,500 visas were issued to members of the UN diplomatic community. In addition, the United States Mission has been pleased to assist Member States in resolving issues involving banking and financial services. We look forward to continued collaboration and positive interactions with all of our colleagues in the UN community.

Mr. Chairman,

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 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 wish to recognize the efforts of Mr. Surya Sinha, Secretary of the

Committee. We also 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.

In closing, let me reiterate how proud the United States is to be the Host Country to the United Nations. We look forward to continuing to work closely with all of you in resolving issues that may arise during the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.