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UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by the United States of America
Mark Simonoff, Minister Counselor

69th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 168 - Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

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 has worked hard to assist missions and mission staff to secure banking services, including by participating in a briefing for all delegations and by working bilaterally with missions to help them secure such 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 US 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, Secretary 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.

We look forward to continuing to wTm (Secretar803.Tc 11.3 0 0 11.3 39045 111.84 Tmhyd(wTmipa0m

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