

**Statement at the 78th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 161: Report of the Committee on Relations
with the Host Country
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United States Mission to the United Nations
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Thank you, Chair.

The United States takes great pride in serving as the host country of the United Nations Headquarters. We are dedicated to fulfilling our obligations under the Headquarters Agreement and strive to be welcoming and supportive hosts to all Permanent Missions and Observer Offices to the UN in New York.

We would like to thank the Mayor's Office of International Affairs, the Governor's Office, and all the public servants in New York who have worked to keep the UN community safe this year and to provide them necessary services. Those who attended High Level Week can attest to the tremendous resources and attention that this City devotes to supporting the UN.

The United States Mission's Host Country Section works countless hours to assist your missions with an array of issues ranging from routine administrative questions to emergency situations. If your mission has any concerns or questions, we urge you to contact the Host Country Section right away. The sooner we know of an issue, the more quickly we can help address it.

Our leadership has also engaged throughout this year with the members of the Host Country Committee, representatives of interested states, and with the UN's Office of Legal Affairs to address concerns. We continuously work to improve processes, respond efficiently to questions, and resolve outstanding issues. Our work has paid off.

Over the past year, we have issued the vast majority of visas requested for UN-related work. This year's High-Level Week is a case in point: we issued approximately 99 percent of visas

result of our continuing work to streamline procedures.

This year's success continues a clear trend. Over the past number of years, we have continued to improve visa-related procedures, devote more resources to visa processing, and speed up processing times, despite major hurdles.

To ensure timely issuance, we encourage all Member States to continue to apply for visas well in advance of their intended travel, include all requested application information, and share

with us in advance if you have concerns about a particular visa, especially when it comes to last minute travel. We must also remind member states to refrain from applying for diplomatic visas to engage in unauthorized activities that are unrelated to UN business. Abuse of UN visas is an affront to the UN and undermines its critical work.

Although our travel control poli