



## United States Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by Ambassador Mark D. Wallace**  
**Agenda Item 117: Capital Master Plan**  
**Before the Fifth Committee**  
**November 30, 2006**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank Acting Under-Secretary-General for Management, Mr. Warren Sach, for the introduction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/549) and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Rajat Saha, for the introduction of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/61/595).

The United States has long been concerned about the current state of the United Nations headquarters complex. We want to ensure that delegates and staff working at headquarters, as well as the thousands of visitors that travel here every year, are in a safe and secure environment. My delegation supports the Capital Master Plan and appreciates all of the work that has been done to date to ensure that this project continues to move ahead. The General Assembly must now make important decisions on the project budget and financing and the United States stands ready to make these decisions during this session.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has carefully reviewed the Secretary-General's report, as well as the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and is in general agreement with the recommendations, conclusions and observations contained in both reports. There are, of course, a number of technical issues related to these decisions that will need to be resolved during informal consultations.

My delegation also expects that the Secretary-General will take all steps needed to ensure that the project is managed within the project budget presented in the report under consideration today. We note that the Secretary-General himself recommends that the General Assembly approve a project "to be completed in the period 2006-2014" and with a budget "not to exceed \$1,876.7 million." My delegation believes it is important that the UN continually seek ways to contain costs and achieve greater efficiencies, using sound project management processes

to control scope and schedule. We look forward to further discussions in the informal consultations on all of these topics.

It is time for the General Assembly to act and to allow the Capital Master Plan to move forward in keeping with the schedule. The safety and security of the staff, delegates and visitors to the headquarters complex depends on the General Assembly's decisions and we hope that after years of discussion, those decisions can be made in the next few weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.