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**Statement by Ambassador Mark D. Wallace
U.S. Representative for UN Management and Reform
On the Capital Master Plan
Before the Fifth Committee
June 16, 2006**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking Assistant-Secretary-General Reuter for his introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on the Capital Master Plan (A/60/874) and the Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Saha, for the report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/6/Add.38). Since this will be Mr. Reuter's last appearance before the Fifth Committee, my delegation would also like to thank him for all of his efforts on the Capital Master Plan and wish him success in his new endeavors. We hope that Under-Secretary-General Burnham will soon find a successor to Mr. Reuter, as it is crucial to the implementation of this project that this position is filled. As this project moves forward, my delegation will be focused on the need for transparency and strong oversight in the project execution processes.

My delegation believes that the Committee should focus its attention during this resumed session on a decision on project strategy. As we have stated before, this decision is necessary to provide clear direction on the continuation of pre-construction work and on the use of the funds approved by the General Assembly last month. We understand that \$20 million has been spent from the funds approved by the GA last month. We would appreciate clarification on what has been done with these funds, as well as what has been done under the approved commitment authority.

After continued careful review and analysis, my delegation agrees that the Secretary-General's recommendation favoring Strategy IV is the best way forward. We look forward to working with other Member States to reach a consensus agreement on strategy during this session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General's latest report also provides some interesting information regarding the long-term benefits of a consolidation building. My delegation believes the issue of a consolidation building deserves careful consideration, but should be considered separately from the General Assembly's consideration of the Capital Master Plan. In that regard, we endorse the ACABQ's recommendations on this report.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.