799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA

NEwYoRI<, N.Y.10017-3505

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement of the United States of America
71 st General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 84: Rule of Law
Statement by Stephen Townley, Counsellor
October 5, 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman. We also thank the Secretary General for his report on the
UN' s activities. We would like to thank the rule of law unit in particular, and the various Missions and partners that have joined them, for organizing informative briefings on particular rule of law topics throughout the year.

We take note with interest of the information provided on the Secretariat's review of the regulations giving effect to Article 102 of the UN Charter and on recent developments in and practices in the discharge of the Secretary General's function as depositary of multilateral treaties. In this regard, we welcome the steps the Secretary General has taken to use new technologies to increase the efficiency of the UN' s work on treaty matters and to expand access to information. On the question of potential changes to regulations giving effect to Article 102 of the Charter, we believe this Committee should focus its attention on proposals that could further contribute to efficiency, particularly through the effective use ofinformationve

An important part of the U.S. review process is a legal analysis of the agreement, which identifies the laws and authorities that the United States will rely on to implement the agreement,

For instance, our Department of Health and Human Services has clarified that community health centers can provide health-related legal aid. Subsequently, a number of community health centers across the country received supplemental funding to establish partnerships between the medical and legal communities.

Moreover, some of our programs are specially designed to meet the needs of particular populations, such as indigenous communities. For instance, there are federally-funded legal aid programs that work in Indian Country to provide specialized legal services for our indigenous communities.

On the criminal side, we welcome the recent adoption by the United Nations Commission
on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of a resolution sponsored by the United States to promote access to criminal legal aid. This resolution helped translate Sustainable Development · Goal 16 into new resources and tools for national experts, including by supporting the concept of a new global network for legal aid practitioners. We look forward to participating in the second . international criminal legal aid conference, taking place in Buenos Aires in November 2016, which follows on the