Statement at the 75th General Assembly Sixth Committee Agenda Item 85: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization Elizabeth Grosso, Attorney-Adviser United States Mission to the United Nations October 23, 2020

Thank you, Chair.

To begin, we are proud to be celebrating the 75th anniversary

With respect to proposals regarding new subjects of consideration for the Special Committee, the United States continues to stand ready to engage on matters that have the potential to add value. These new items should be practical, non-political, and not duplicate efforts elsewhere in the United Nations. In addition, we would not wish the Special Committee to become a forum for the airing of bilateral concerns, or for meaningful discussion within its mandate to be displaced by consideration of topics more appropriately raised in other forums. For these reasons, we do not support advancement of the proposal concerning unilateral coercive measures, and also have serious doubts about the proposal concerning Article 51. In addition, concerns about the obligations of the host country should be raised in the dedicated Host Country Committee. We believe consideration of these topics has little prospect for generating consensus in the Charter Committee.

The United States has welcomed productive steps in recent years to streamline the agenda of the Special Committee and to close the discussion of proposals that failed to generate consensus. The Special Committee should take further steps in 2021 to improve its efficiency and productivity, and to make the best use of scarce Secretariat resources. Committee members should also give serious consideration to biennial meetings or shortened sessions. In the current reform-minded environment in which we operate, with tighter budgets and increased focus on efficiency, and particularly given the intense scheduling demands on the UN in the coming months, the Special Committee should recognize that these steps are reasonable and long overdue.

Thank you.