Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, first of all please allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Chair of the 5th Committee. I am speaking here for the first time under your Chairmanship and I am particularly delighted to see you there. Let me also assure you that when we come at the crunch time of the 5th Committee you shall have our constructive and very strong support. I wish you all the very best on our behalf.

Mr. Chairman, I also apologize to the interpreters as I intend to deviate from, although well-crafted statement, actually to address what I have been hearing in the last hour or so.

Obviously I want to begin by thanking the Missions of Canada and Indonesia for their outstanding work in bringing us to the place where we are today on the Civilian Capacity processes. Also want to note the Secretary General’s Report and the ACABQ’s views and I am very delighted to see the current Vice-Chair and the soon to be Chairman of the ACABQ here. Thank you very much Carlos and I wish you all the best in your endeavours too.

Mr. Chairman, I am, of course, very happy to see Special Advisor Sarah Cliff herself here and briefing the 5th Committee. She has been the pivot of all the work which has gone on here along with her team and having the briefing directly from her and giving us an opportunity to interact with her is of a particular importance.

Let me say another thing right at the outset. His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Pakistan spoke just before me and addressed several issues on the Civilian Capacity Report and the way he believes and his delegation believes things should go forward. I strongly agree with all what he had said especially on the linkages with the peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes and the way the budgetary and financial mechanisms of the Civilian Capacity processes should unfold here at the United Nations. We, of course, align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman, you know governance, basic services, public administration - these are some of the formidable challenges that countries face when in transition from conflict to the lasting peace. Support to national Civilian Capacities in post-conflict situation is obviously critical and the United Nations must engage itself in this process. My delegation has strongly supported the efforts of the United Nations and Ms. Cliff in this regard and we will continue to be strongly there for them and with them in this matter. However, let me repeat what as I mentioned to you the Permanent Representative of Pakistan had mentioned the Civilian Capacity is a critical element
but within the overarching framework of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Their proposal, therefore, cannot be an alternative to peacekeeping or in any way tend to dilute from the budgetary resources and other resources which are available for peacekeeping which is not only the flagship activity of the United Nations but certainly its most critical activity in the service of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to see that this process has finally come really into the realm of inter-governmentalness and at the 5th Committee which is the principal deliberative organ for trying to take these particular things forward in an inter-governmental setting.

My delegation strongly believes that this is the way things should go forward. We also believe that the vibrant deliberation in C-34 is particularly critical and will make the outcomes on Civilian Capacity initiative inclusive and more productive. I think I also need to highlight that budgetary, personnel and recruitment aspects of the United Nations approved by the General Assembly need to be adhered to strictly in all circumstances. Transparency, fairness, judicious deployment of scarce resources are priorities, these shall certainly have overriding priorities. I need to use this opportunity to mention that this is particularly important that we work through regular processes and regular budgets. Voluntary fundings, etc. have kick-started many things but it needs to move on to the regular scale which is the way of doing things here; which is the norm here at the UN which has stood us in very good stead over the past 60 years. I also hear the words flexibility, no bureaucracy, no rigidity, these are very good words and we all subscribe to them but I think we have very good reasons why we have processes and it is particularly important that the processes are neither short circuited nor by-passed. That the processes need to be improved is a matter on which you couldn’t have a stronger voice than mine and you Mr. Chairman and I stand very strongly for the reforms of the United Nations especially its critical organ the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Chairman, let me also allow to elaborate on a few other specific aspects. Now that we are in an inter-governmental setting it is particularly important that the Civilian Capacity initiative moves from these conceptual and thematic stages to the programmatic domain and details are provided to the member states. This, I believe, would allow us to move in a much more inclusive manner with the complete involvement of Member States of the United Nations and also take care of this entire aspect which has so far been the hallmark of most of the issues here which is episodic sharing of information. Of course a great deal of efforts has been made by Ms. Cliff and her team to reach out to countries but it is also useful and particularly important that this is done across the board in this kind of setting here in an inter-governmental and of course in addition to all the individual efforts which are much appreciated and we are particularly fortunate that we have had the opportunity of a very strong interaction with her on this matter including her having visited my country which has been very good. I think I also need to highlight especially since we are here in the 5th Committee that the Civilian Capacity initiative needs a lot organizational address, it needs to be anchored somewhere in the UN that is particularly important. That is
what allows for proper processes. Processes can be improved as I said and for proper accountability in the General Assembly and in the United Nations in general. It also allows for due diligence and it allows us to use the various processes that we have the tools at our command to ensure that, you know, the proper verification is done including the issues such as use of NGOs, to minimize reputational risks for this organization, the implications for using budgetary resources, etc. And of course, it goes without saying that duplications under all circumstances should be avoided. It is not only question of efficiency but we also live in a time when financial and other resources are scarce and we need to optimize their utilization here. I also want to make another point and Ms. Sarah referred this to in a briefing - the strong outreach to the countries in the South is much appreciated, really much appreciated. I think many of our countries have expertise which is of particular relevance and use and I can say at least on behalf of my country that we have been in the process of making whatever expertise we have available to fellow Member States of the United Nations who may wish to partner with us and in terms of South-South Cooperation and various other fora which would continue to do so strongly through your initiative Ms. Cliff and the Civilian Capacity initiative and all other particular fora. It is my considered view that the Member States in their own domain, i.e. in their own government system have the best of the expertise that we can be utilized and leveraged that would be the top priority and the highest priority in terms of the reach out to where you can source these particular Civilian Capacities.

I have spoken I think longer than what I should have but I want to say that I have done so and also I am present here because that we take this initiative to be not just very serious but very important. We consider this as an initiative that has far reaching implications and important and very significant ones. For the way we as Member State as well as the United Nations is there to assist countries within their own national priorities and in keeping with their national ownership priorities at times of post-conflicts.

I want to end by reiterating our very strong support for the initiative of the United Nations and Ms. Cliff and her team.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

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