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Mr. Chairman,

11. The Group of 77 and China stresses the importance of achieving the highest standards of quality in translation and interpretation. In this regard, the implementation of a successful succession management plan in the language services is of critical importance and urgency. The Group reiterates its support for a proactive succession planning programme, whose major components are outreach to universities and streamlining of the competitive examination for language services. We emphasize that outreach programmes should reach out to institutions from across all geographic regions which are ready to partner with the Organization.

12. The Group strongly believes that while contractual translation should result in cost savings, quality must not be compromised. In this regard, there is a need to provide adequate internal capacity, at the appropriate level, to monitor and control the quality of documentation processed externally. The Group welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General, contained in his Proposed Programme Budget for 2012-2013, for the upward reclassification of six p-4 posts of Reviser to P-5 and five p-4 posts of Interpreter to P-5 Senior Interpreter Level. The proposal is made pursuant to paragraph 10 of Section V of resolution 65/245 of 24th December, 2010. The proposal which has since been recommended by the ACABQ for approval will contribute to enhance quality control, but also bloster efforts to enhance recruitment and retention of language staff at UNON. The Gorup will closely pursue this matter during deliberations on the Proposed Programme Budget.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The Group would like to reiterate its position that the accelerated implementation of the Capital Master Plan (CMP) must not have any negative impact on the quality and availability of conference services, or the equal treatment and working conditions of language services in all six official languages. The Department of General Assembly and Conference Management should institute appropriate measures to ensure the smooth continuation of its services during the implementation of the CMP.

14. The Group also reiterates the importance of adhering to the guidelines and procedures contained in the administrative instructions for the authorization of the use of United Nations premises for meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits by Member States and the Secretariat, and emphasizes that such meetings, conferences, special events and exhibits must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

15. Regarding the integrated global management initiative, the Group would like to reiterate that the purpose of the initiative was to integrate information technology into the management of the provision of conference services and doc and