

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MR. SAI S. NAVOTI, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF FIJI TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 133, PROGRAMME BUDGET: BIENNIUM
2012-2013 - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS, AT THE MAIN PART
OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
New York, 7 October 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Secretary-General has indicated in his report that the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation is being reviewed to ensure that it is updated to reflect the evolution of the Foundation's collaboration with the United Nations.

8. In this regard, the Group of 77 and China is of the strong view that recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies should be a guiding principle of UN operational activities. Partnerships, we believe should also be framed and premised on this principle. They should complement rather than overtake or supersede the national development endeavours aimed at achieving objectives and goals of national development strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We believe that the new initiatives in general and partnerships in particular, should not lead to weakening of the regulatory role of the state and intergovernmental bodies. Importantly, the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations, and the central role and responsibility of Governments in national and international policymaking must be maintained.

10. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China would like to stress that the partnerships should be governed and built around the purposes and principles of UN Charter and that there is greater transparency and accountability in their work.

I thank you.