



Group of 77 and China
Statement
67th Session
136 Programme budget for the biennium 2019-2020
-2019
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(15/2018)

Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136 Programme budget for the biennium 2019-2020 Standards of accommodation for air travel.
2. The Group would like to thank Christian Saunde Assistant Secretary General, Office of Central Support Services, introducing the report of the Secretary on standards of accommodation for air travel. We also thank Sam Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee Administrative and Budgetary Questions introducing the report.
3. The Group of 77 and China attaches great importance to the effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel in the United Nations as the budget of the Organisation has faced significant strains over the last few biennia, in particular the travel budgets. We also note that in the 67th Session, the General Assembly endorsed significant changes to the standards of accommodation for air travel in the United Nations.
- 4.

Mr Chair,

6. Let me highlight four issues

7. Firstly, the Group takes note of the proposal to abolish the ~~use of travel~~ by Assistant and ~~Undersecretaries~~ General, and looks forward to engaging with the secretariat during the upcoming ~~informal consultations~~ to seek clarifications and more information in this regard.

8. Secondly, the Group reiterates its ~~concern~~ with the low compliance rate with the advance purchase ~~policy~~. We share the view of the Advisory ~~Committee~~ that Secretariat should be encouraged to make stronger efforts in this regard.

9. Thirdly, the Group notes the challenges raised by the Secretariat on applying the current travel ~~policy~~, but that no concrete proposal has been made in this regard. We will request further information during the informal consultations, but note that decisions which have a ~~far~~ reaching impact on staff and the Organisation should be based on a sound business case.

10. Lastly, the Group notes the declining acceptance ~~of the proposal~~ from 93% to around 74% since the implementation of the interim measure, and looks forward to upcoming consultations to seek clarifications ~~regarding~~ the impact of this ~~proposal~~

Mr Chair,

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