

(as delivered)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Toshiya Hoshino
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**Agenda item 136: Proposed Programme Budget: biennium 2018-2019
Main Part of the Seventy-second Session of the Fifth Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly
11 October 2017**

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his introduction of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019. I would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ, f

The preliminary recosting for the 2018-2019 budget as is estimated in the Secretary-proposal is at 127.6 million dollars. As the Organization has started to enter into a forward contract in foreign currencies, respectively of Swiss francs and euros, to manage exchange rate fluctuation and inflation, my delegation expects to receive the Secretary-report on the revised estimates in this regards that reflects such efforts.

My delegation takes note of the proposed staffing level of 9,998 established and temporary posts for the biennium 2018-2019 under expenditure section. We note, however, ratio of D-1 and higher posts to Professional level posts, as well as to combined Professional and General Service posts remains high or even increasing. My delegation is concerned with the trend that the reduction of posts mainly focusing on junior levels is presented as overall cost reduction efforts and efficiencies. A more efficient and leaner organization needs to be less top-heavy.

The Secretary-reports on management reform contain a number of proposals concerning the changes to the basic budget formulation, its machinery and the budget implementation. While we keep close eyes on the