



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA ON AGENDA ITEM 142: PROGRAMME PLANNING (NEW YORK, OCTOBER 12

2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 142: Programme Planning.

2. Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), Mr. Georgi Velikov Panayotov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria, and the Vice Chairs of the committee, for their efforts during the committee's deliberations this year. We thank Ambassador Panayotov for the presentation of the Committee's report.

Mr. Chair,

4. Last year we experienced the daunting task of considering the programme plan in an annual format for the first time since 1974. As we are in the second year of this trial period, the Group wishes to underscore the importance of the strategic framework as the means through which inter-governmentally agreed mandates are translated into implementable programmes.

5. The Group reaffirms its steadfast support to the prerogatives of the CPC in its work as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council for planning, programming, evaluation and coordination. We hope that next year's session of the CPC will have a more traditional setting in which delegations will not be deprived of the participation of their experts from capital nor from the benefits of interpretation services. In this setting, the Committee will be able to provide better guidance in the interpretation of legislative mandates and in the consideration and development of evaluation procedures for the improvement of programme design and the avoidance of overlap and duplication.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Group has examined the programme plan and CPC's report. In this regard, we appreciate the improvements made by the Secretariat in light of resolution 74/251, regarding the format of programmes and sub-programmes. While we welcome the cross-cutting recommendations made by the CPC, we strongly believe that further guidance is needed during the trial period of the annual programme plan and budget in order to reach consensus-building conclusions by the end of the trial period.

7. The Group is heartened that despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the CPC this year, the Committee managed to consider and give recommendations on the majority

of the programme plan and the coordination report on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Notwithstanding, we wish to highlight that much of that work was possible because of the extreme flexibility shown by the CPC members, in shedding many important elements from their agenda, such as the OIOS Evaluation reports in order to prioritize the consideration of the programme plan.

Mr. Chair,

8. Our Committee is once more tasked with deciding on programmes that have been left without recommendations from the CPC. The Group insists that the consideration of the programme plan is not an exclusive prerogative of the Fifth Committee, and that the Plenary and all Main Committees of the General Assembly must retain their role in the review and action on the recommendations of the CPC and the programmes that are relevant to their work.

9. Furthermore, this Committee is yet again faced with the undeniable violation of the Rules and Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. We continue to be gravely troubled by the timeline under which the related programme budget has been prepared by the Secretariat, analyzed by the ACABQ and then presented to us without a basis of an inter- governmentally agreed programme plan, as stipulated in the aforementioned Rules and Regulaion... PPIÖ 10. We look forward to the diderf(oh)wD<1 in thil Committee on

in



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS. MEGAYLA AUSTIN, MINISTER COUNSELLOR OF THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 141: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 2021,
AT THE MAIN PART OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, October 12th, 2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 141: Proposed Programme Budget for 2021.
2. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Mr Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General

based management framework. The Group agrees with the Advisory Committee that further improvements to the presentation are required to accurately reflect mandates and the measures to achieve them, and the impact on the priorities of member states.

Mr. Chair,

6. On the budget methodology, the Group notes, over the years, an increasingly wider gap between the budgeted and the actual vacancy rates. The Group stresses that vacancy rates should not be used as a tool to achieve artificial savings in the budget, at the expense of mandate delivery. We recall the previous decisions of the General Assembly that a high vacancy rate hampers the delivery of mandated programmes and activities, and that deliberate management decisions to keep a certain number of posts vacant make the budget process less transparent and management of staff resources more difficult.

Mr. Chair,

7. The United Nations adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development five years ago. We are now just a decade away from our target date of 2030. International peace and security and development are two sides of the same coin. The ground conditions for peace and stability will not be laid if the development agenda is not realised.

8. In this regard, the Group reiterates its call for the strengthening of the development pillar. We are therefore concerned that the budget proposal contains cuts to bodies that are integral to the development pillar, in particular the Regional Commissions including ECA, ESCAP, ECLAC, and ESCWA. The Group will seek detailed explanations about the proposed cuts during the informal consultations.

Mr. Chair,

9. The Group also notes with concern the growing reliance on voluntary contributions. We stress that extrabudgetary resources must be used in a manner consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organisation, and that all extrabudgetary posts must be administered with the same rigour as regular budget posts. This is to ensure that functions covered by extrabudgetary resources do not have an impact on mandate implementation. The Group firmly rejects any manipulation of the Organisation's delivery of mandates by skewing priorities towards specific areas that receive more voluntary funding. We reiterate our long-standing position that adequate resources must be provided for the Organisation to fulfil its mandates.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Group is committed to working constructively with you and all delegations on this item. We encourage all delegations to engage in budget deliberations with a spirit of flexibility and responsibility, in order to reach an agreement that is in the best interest of the Organisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.