



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS MEGAYLA AUSTIN, MINISTER COUNSELLOR OF THE PERMANENT**

**leadership and guidance, the Committee will
conclude this session in a timely manner and with a positive outcome. We also would like to record
our sincere appreciation to the outgoing Bureau members for their hard work during the 74**

session.

th

3. We reiterate our deep gratitude for the stellar work of the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee led by Mr. Lionelito Berridge, in facilitating the work of the Committee.
4. The Group also wishes to thank the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for its invaluable support and assistance to our work. The Group recognizes the extraordinary circumstances of the current times and is grateful for the Secretariat's and ACABQ's additional efforts to overcome the difficulties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in carrying out their work.
5. The Group thanks the Bureau and the Secretariat for providing the draft programme of work and the status of preparedness of documentation contained in document A/C.5/75/L.1, both of which, we know, will be reviewed and adjusted during the course of the session to reflect the progress of the work and priorities of the Committee and the limitations posed by the prevailing public health situation.

Mr. Chair,

6. Though the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, the Group celebrates that circumstances here in New York have improved. This has enabled us to resume our business in a manner that hopefully with each passing day resembles more and more what we had last year. We look forward

to the introduction of agenda items through formal meetings and to have summary records of the work of the Committee. The Group however is greatly disappointed that due to security concerns the Committee is again deprived of interpretation services during our informal consultations. Multilingualism continues to be yet another victim of this pandemic.

7. We are committed to a thorough consideration of the agenda items allocated to the Committee, and in this regard, note with disappointment that several important reports are still outstanding. This, Mr. Chair, significantly compromises the Committee's work. The Group wishes to reiterate that adequate time should be given to each item and that practical steps must be taken to ensure that reports from the Secretariat and the ACABQ are issued in all official languages in a timely fashion, in line with the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and relevant resolutions to this effect.

8. In the weeks ahead, the Fifth Committee will address issues of crucial importance to the General Assembly and the O

Mr. Chair,

12. The Group reaffirms its continued commitment to considering and concluding our work within the allocated timeframe, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. We look forward to