

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) BY MS.  
MARIVIL VILLA VALLES, FIFTH COMMITTEE EXPERT  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
THE PHILIPPINES TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON  
AGENDA ITEMS 134: PROPOSED PROGRAMME  
BUDGET 2024 and 135: PROPOSED PROGRAMME  
PLAN FOR 2024, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE 78<sup>th</sup>  
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, USA  
10 OCTOBER 2023**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on agenda items 134 on *Proposed Programme Budget for 2024* and 135 on *Proposed Programme Plan for 2024*. ASEAN aligns itself with the statement of Cuba, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation and thanks for H.E. the Secretary-General for the presentation of his reports on programme plan and budget for 2024. And likewise, our gratitude to Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the ACABQ, and the Vice-Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), for introducing their respective reports.

Mr. Chair, cognizant of the global efforts to address development challenges on every front, the Secretary General proposed a programme budget, which aims to bolster our moral duty and obligation to uphold a more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous future. The proposed budget, as indicated in the reports, includes programme plans for the year, which are required to effectively implement programmatic activities and legislative mandates.

In this regard, we look forward to the secretariat's comprehensive report on the implementation of the annual budget cycle in 2028, to allow consultations on how to further strengthen the budget process, ensure more accurate planning and improve the budget liquidity of the organization. We, as member States and partners of United Nations, hope to make the most out of what we expect to be an improved budget process.

ASEAN appreciates the continued efforts to improve the Programme Plan presentation and ensure substantial discussions in the CPC. However, a lot remains to be done to improve the conduct of the review process. In particular, during the recently-concluded 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the CPC, ten (10) out of the twenty-eight (28) programmes did not reach consensus, and therefore resulted with no conclusions and recommendations. This was a substantive increase from last year's 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the CPC, where only three (3) programmes did not reach consensus. We call for more time for deliberations.

Mr. Chair, ASEAN supports the importance of preserving the role of the CPC, as the main



