

ALGERIA

**Statement by H. E Mourad BENMEHIDI, Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of Algeria to the United Nations**

on Agenda item 134:

**Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium
2012-2013, at the fifth Committee during the main part
of the 66th session of the General Assembly**

New York, 27 October 2011

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that under your leadership the fifth Committee will address the challenges at stake in an appropriate manner.

I would like to thank the Secretary General for his presentation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and the Chairperson of the ACABQ for the introduction of the related Advisory Committee's report.

My Delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of the Argentina, on behalf of Group 77 and China, and the distinguished Representative of Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation strongly believes that the consideration of the budget is the highest priority of the organization in the current session. The budget document is an authoritative statement that should reflect the strategic vision of the Secretary-General in delivering the mandates and priorities decided by Member States.

The proposed programme budget of the organization should be in full conformity with the activities needed to be undertaken. We are of the view that the level of resources should enable the Secretariat for the effective and efficient implementation of all mandates and activities. In this regard, we support the budget discipline and measures to achieve greater efficiency through optimal use of available resources but at the same time we express our concern regarding the arbitrary cut of 3 per cent on programme manager which has negative potential on the implementation of mandates and programmes approved by the intergovernmental bodies.

Obviously, the proposed allocation of resources for the budget does not address as a matter of priority the necessity of strengthening the Organization's capacity to implement the development agenda. In each and every Proposed Programme Budget, my delegation along with a majority of Member States have asked for putting an end to systemic discrimination towards development activities in the UN budget. Indeed, the proposed allocation of resources for the budget sections for the Programme Budget for the Biennium 2012 - 2013 seems to be another disappointment for developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Development is the corner stone of this organization. The General Assembly resolution A/63/260 demonstrated the strong political will of the Member States to strengthen the development pillar of the United Nations. It is a legitimate expectation to see in each proposed program budget, how the provisions of that resolution have been translated into concrete proposals by the Secretary General, but to our surprise, the proposed allocation of financial resources for the next biennium seems nothing but repeating the past.

The figures are self-explanatory: 0.4 decrease in international cooperation for development and 1.9 decrease in regional cooperation for development, and the development account only amount to 0.4 per cent of the over all budget . These proposed allocations, once again, indicate that "Development" appear to remain not a priority in terms of the financial and human resources for the Secretariat.

Regional Commissions play an important role in implementing development agenda, and for that reason the allocation of financial and human resources to these commissions should be in a manner to enable them to implement their core mandates without reliance on extra Budgetary resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The urgent filling of the post of the Special adviser for Africa (OSAA) is a matter of priority for my delegation. It is important to note that the current arrangements of merging the functions of the Office of Special adviser for Africa and those of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing countries and small Island developing States (OHRLLS) under one leadership are affecting adversely the work of OSAA and were rejected by the General Assembly through its resolutions 62/224, 62/236, 63/260, 63/243 and 65/544.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on the proposed program and budget for 2012-2013. We believe only constructive approach from all parties during the negotiation on this important item will strengthen our organizations and harmony among its Member States.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

