



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 149: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE
FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: OVERVIEW
OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS:
BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2015 TO 30 JUNE 2016
AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2017 TO 30 JUNE 2018, DURING THE
SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 9 May 2017)**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations: Overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.
2. At the outset, the Group once again wishes to pay special tribute to all of our peacekeepers who made the ultimate sacrifice in line of duty. We express our deep respect and appreciation for those 32 courageous soldiers who lost their lives in 2016 for the cause of maintaining international peace and security.
3. The Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

Madam Chair,

4. The Group of 77 and China attaches great importance to this agenda item as it provides necessary elements for policy guidance for effective and efficient mandate delivery. This item takes on added importance this year, in the context of the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the UN's peace and security architecture.
5. The Group once again welcomes the streamlined overview report that focuses on new developments, policy changes, and management challenges facing peacekeeping operations. We encourage the Secretary-General to continue further improvements in its presentation.
6. The Group of 77 and China appreciates the Secretary-General's six broad reform priorities. The Group notes that there have been a number of reform initiatives in the past and stresses that future reports should provide information on the links between reform initiatives. This will help Member States understand more fully the purpose and direction of reform, and how these proposals relate to our existing context.
7. In addition to his announced priorities, we should consider increasing the representation of TCCs and PCCs in the UN system, especially in view of their contributions. The Group regrets the decreased percentage of staff from TCCs and PCCs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and will discuss this trend during informal consultations. We remain concerned that some senior

positions in the UN's peace and security architecture remain dominated by a small group of Member States. We commend the Secretary-General's stated commitment to diversity in representation, and in this regard, call upon the Secretariat to increase the representation of TCCs and PCCs, as well as do more to increase the recruitment and representation of women in peacekeeping

8. In terms of mandate delivery, the Group also notes that the repeated changes to mission structures and post/position locations and functions from one year to the next with no apparent link to changes in mandates or operational circumstances, is destabilizing, affecting the clarity and continuity of lines of accountability and control and impacting upon staff performance. We would like to further discuss this trend during informal consultations. An effective triangular cooperation mechanism between all stakeholders would lend an impetus to mandate delivery of the peacekeeping operations.

Madam Chair,

9. The Group shares the concerns of the Board of Auditors over substantive variations between appropriation and actual expenditures which imply poor budgetary formulation and implementation. This may also negatively impact mandate delivery.

10. The Group stresses that budget formulation for PKOs should be based on the existing mandates and the specific circumstances on the ground for each mission. We will examine a number of these elements during informal consultations. The Group also concurs with the Advisory Committee on the need for adherence to budgetary discipline, as well as existing financial rules and regulations. The Group reiterates that the formulation of peacekeeping budgets should not to be conducted as an arbitrary, across-the-board cost-cutting exercise.

11. On civilian personnel, incumbency and vacancy rates the Group once again stresses the need for expeditiously fill vacant vacancies while addressing the underlying challenges on the ground.

12. With regard to supply chain management, the group concurs with ACABQ and is of the view that a comprehensive description of project costs and benefits have still not been provided to the General Assembly. This is despite an increase in the proposed resource requirements for 2017/18 and extensive structural implications reflected in the related budget proposals for individual missions, the UNLB and the support account for peacekeeping operations. The group once again stresses the importance of drawing the lessons of the global field support strategy in this regard and as well as the provision of comprehensive, verifiable detail pertaining to project costs and benefits, across all peacekeeping operations.

13. Turning to Umoja implementation, the Group looks forward to receiving information on Umoja's verifiable costs and benefits, including in peacekeeping operations, upon completion of the updated business case and believe that future overview reports will also incorporate comprehensive details in this regard.

14. On unmanned aerial systems in peacekeeping missions, the Group of 77 and China would be interested to receive information on its utilization, cost effectiveness, purchasing and bidding procedure, management and regulation, and a number of policy guidelines, such as classes and reimbursement, during our informal consultations.

15. On air operations, the Group of 77 and China regrets that the assessment of the roles and activities of the different offices responsible for the management and oversight of air operations for UN field missions has still not been completed. We request the Secretary-General to complete all work connected to this assessment before the preparation of the next overview report.

16. The Group reiterates its longstanding support of quick impact projects, which make an important contribution towards the success of peacekeeping missions. These projects are of fundamental importance, especially in terms of local, ground-level inclusion in the dividends of the peace process. The extension of and the amount of resources available to these projects should be closely linked to the situation on the ground and the specific situation of each and every mission. The Group also reiterates its understanding of the positive role played by the inclusion of programmatic funds in mission budgets on a case-by-case basis, with a view to supporting the effective implementation of mandated tasks.

17. The G77 and China notes with concern the increase in the number of death and disability claims pending for longer than three months. We recall paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 66/264, in which the Assembly urged the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure the timely settlement of all such claims within three months from the date of their submission. It is shameful to fall short of our moral duty to fulfill this Organization's obligations to the families of the people who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United Nations and the people we seek to protect.

18. With respect to reducing the environmental footprint of peacekeeping operations, the Group acknowledges the long-term strategy launched by the DFS in 2016, which includes a performance and risk management system, and the establishment of preliminary three-year objectives in relation to energy, waste and wastewater, solid waste, and environmental management systems. In this connection, the Group looks forward to receiving an update on the implementation of the environmental scorecard across missions, and requests that the appropriate monitoring mechanisms be established to ensure accountability and corrective action, as required.

19. In conclusion, allow me to assure you that the Group will engage constructively on this agenda item with the aim of reaching a positive and consensual outcome.

I thank you, Madam Chair.