



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT
MISSION OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 136:
PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018-2019: REVISED
ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL DURING 2017, AT THE MAIN PART OF
THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 22 November 2017)**

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 2017.
2. At the outset, the Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General as contained in document A/72/398, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee as contained in document A/72/7/Add.22.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group continues to attach great importance to the adequate funding of mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. Such funding must provide the Organization with the necessary level of financial, as well as human, resources in order for it to be able to deliver as expected by Member States.
4. The Group of 77 and China notes that the additional budgetary requirements resulting from a resolution and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) during its 2017 session are estimated at USD 288,700, of which USD 247,200 would required an additional appropriation to be charged against the Contingency Fund for the biennium 2018-2019.
5. In this regard, the second decision 2017/241 related to the preparations for the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs will give rise to additional appropriation of USD 247,200 to be charged against the contingency fund. The Group would like to emphasize that the Advisory Committee notes that the approved level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2018-2019 was USD 40.5 million and the proposed programme budget implications/revised estimates amounted to USD 25.7 million. The ACABQ also notes that if approved in full, the remaining balance of the contingency found for 2018-2019 would be USD 14.8 million.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Groups also notes that the requirement in the amount of USD 39,000 resulting from the adoption of resolution 2017/26 which extended the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, is proposed to be accommodated within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, while the requirements of USD 2,500 resulting from decision 2017/2014 related to the appointment of an additional member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti would be absorbed within the programme budget for 2016-2017.

7. In this context, the Group wishes to recall that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti was extended with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti.

8. The Group of 77 and China, therefore, supports the provision of the required resources to finance the resolution and decision adopted by the ECOSOC at its 2017 session.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The Group assures you of our continued commitment to participate actively and constructively in the consultations on this important agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.