



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
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REPRESENTATIVE OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM  
134: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL  
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS – SHIFTING THE MANAGEMENT  
PARADIGM IN THE UNITED NATIONS - AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-  
SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
(New York, 4 December 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 134, Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.
2. The Group of 77 and China thanks Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for introducing his report entitled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: ensuring a better future for all". The Group also thanks Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for presenting its related report (A/72/7/Add. 24).

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to improve the Organization's ability to deliver on its mandates. The Group commends the Secretary-General's commitment to continuing open and transparent consultation with the General Assembly on his interlinked reform initiatives, as well as his reaffirmation of the inter-governmental processes as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and related resolutions by this Assembly. Reform of the Organization can only succeed if there is active participation and true ownership by the entire membership of the Organization, as well as the Secretariat.
4. The Group of 77 and China continues to maintain that an effective and efficient United Nations is key to the pursuit of a more just and equitable international order. The Group welcomes the stated intention of the Secretary-General that his management reform is aimed at strengthening the ability of this Organization to implement all its mandates fully and effectively, particularly in the field.
5. Management reform must be grounded in the firm foundation of the Organization's intergovernmental, multilateral, and international character. In this regard, the Group underscores the oversight roles of the General Assembly through its Fifth Committee, as well as the roles of the Committee on Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. These are the bodies established by the General Assembly to ensure that Member States are involved in the planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring, and evaluation processes from start to finish, and are at the heart of ensuring a strong link between programme implementation and accountability to the membership.

6. As we begin this journey, the Group also acknowledges the efforts of the Secretary-General to consult with relevant bodies including the Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. We encourage him to continue their involvement in his reform efforts. It is of particular importance that given the scale of the Secretary-General's proposals, attention be given to risk management, monitoring, and evaluation of the impact of reform initiatives to address the concerns outlined in his report. The Group notes that the change management process will be extensive and trusts that the Secretariat will ensure that mandate delivery on the ground is not affected negatively during this period.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the centrality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the reform proposals. All Member States of the United Nations have recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Organization is uniquely positioned to foster the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

8. The Group of 77 and China expects that the interlinked reform processes will not only mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals at the global, regional and national levels, but will be matched by the resources necessary to implement the Goals both through its development institutions, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional commissions, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and in different national realities, capacities and levels of development in developing countries, in particular in Africa, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small-island developing states, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. Previous reform initiatives focused on cost-saving and staff reductions, but failed to deliver on hollow promises to redirect savings towards development and mandate delivery. We emphasize the need to strengthen mandate implementation in these areas.

Mr Chairman,

9. The Group of 77 and China emphasizes that a guiding principle of management reform must be increasing transparency and accountability to Member States, including the accountability of the Secretariat to this Assembly. Proposals for the delegation of authority and changes in reporting lines need to be matched by effective proposals for accountability.

10. The Group welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to more precise and accurate budgets. The Group looks forward to his leadership of the Secretariat in utilizing the new tools developed in recent years to provide more information and detail to Member States. The budget document is an essential tool for Member States in assessing the plans, proposals, strategic focus, process, and achievements of the Secretariat. It is a window that should provide more transparency, and through increased transparency facilitate oversight.

11. The Group of 77 and China also wishes to underscore the importance of ensuring equitable geographical representation and gender parity at all levels. The Group acknowledges the progress made in this regard by the Secretary-General and requests him to continue these efforts. The Group reiterates that geographical representation and gender parity must go hand in hand and looks forward to a comprehensive geographical representation strategy that also identifies the inherent biases in processes that allow for domination by certain regional groupings of particular departments or senior management posts. The Group further stresses the need to ensure fair and increased access to United Nations procurement opportunities for developing countries and countries in transition, as highlighted in multiple General Assembly resolutions.

12. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China is encouraged by early efforts to reform internal coordination and collaboration within the Secretariat, and across the UN System as a whole. The Group notes that the people of the United Nations are the lifeblood of this Organization, and must also be an integral part of the reform process. Organizational change is not only about restructuring departments, but about empowering staff to deliver on their mandates without administrative obstacles. Changing the culture of the Organization at levels will leverage the speed and effectiveness with which reform proposals are implemented.

Mr Chairman,

13. The Group is committed to working constructively towards finding an agreement on this issue in a way that tangibly promotes the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. We reiterate our commitment to a constructive dialogue towards the common goal of a better United Nations.

Thank you very much.