



**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 :  
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS, AT THE MAIN  
PART OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 13 October 2017)**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136: Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2018 - 2019 in particular on the Progress on the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards - IPSAS.
2. At the outset, allow me to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, for introducing the Secretary-General's Tenth and final progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations, contained in document A/72/213. We also wish to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing its related report contained in document A/72/7/Add.4.
3. The Group recalls once again that by its resolution 60/283, the General Assembly approved the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as a means of improving the Organization's accounting standards and hence efficiency in financial management. In this regard, the Secretary General has submitted annual progress reports on the adoption of IPSAS to the General Assembly since 2008.
4. The Group would like to commend the efforts of the Secretary-General to complete the implementation of IPSAS project.

**Mr. Chair,**

5. The Group of 77 and China concurs with the view of the Advisory Committee that, despite the implementation of IPSAS in 24 organizations of the United Nations system and the following unqualified audit opinions, much work remains to be done, including further utilize information generated by IPSAS at all levels of management to better inform decision-making and to benefit Member States.
6. With regard to the benefits attributable to the adoption of IPSAS and Umoja-related system enhancements, the Group remains of the view that relevant future reports should provide clarity on this issue.

**Mr. Chair,**

7. Turning to the strengthening of the internal control, the Group of 77 and China has taken note of the efforts made by the Secretary-General to provide training and skills development to promote IPSAS sustainability.

8. The Group concurs with the view of the Advisory Committee that, despite the fact that the Secretary-General planned a pilot exercise to test the assurance process in selected peacekeeping missions, he doesn't include relevant information in the final progress report as a result of the six months delay of the preparation of the statement of internal control. The Group looks forward to receiving the result of the pilot next year.

**Mr. Chair,**

9. The Group understands that the challenge for the entities is to utilize the information under IPSAS as an instrument for the improvement of accountability, transparency, efficiency, control and financial sustainability of the Organization. In this regard, the Group requests the Secretary-General, as Chair of the Chief Executive Board, to continue to coordinate all aspects related to the transmission from the United Nations System Accounting Standards to IPSAS, including the need to continue to gather, analyze and disseminate information with regard to the challenges faced, lessons learned, best practices and benefits realized by the Organization so as to further refine the implementation plans and strategies of the Organization until the full implementation of Umoja. The Group expects that the system-wide collaboration between entities on post-implementation IPSAS compliance matters will be sustained.

10. With regard to the cost recovery for services provided to 13 reporting entities, the Group would like to hear more detailed information in the informal consultations.

11. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China would like to reassure you of our continued commitment to work constructively with other delegations in order to conclude consideration of this item in a timely fashion.

**I thank you, Mr. Chair.**