

**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, AT THE  
CLOSING SESSION OF THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND  
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 22 December 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China before the closure of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the 72nd session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

After lengthy, arduous and intense negotiations, allow me to express the Group's profound appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Bureau, for the crucial role you played to ensure the successful conclusion of our work. Your enlightened leadership, tactful diplomacy and wisdom helped the Committee accomplish all the important tasks before it.

The Group of 77 and China also commends all the Coordinators for their invaluable facilitation efforts to achieve a successful outcome of our session. The Group would further like to thank our negotiating partners for the constructive manner in which the negotiations were conducted. Our sincere thanks also go to the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee as well as to all the other Secretariat officials and support staff who facilitated our deliberations.

I wish to reaffirm the importance the Group of 77 and China attaches to the work of the Organization and the need to ensure its effective and smooth functioning with the view to ensuring that our Organization is able to effectively and efficiently discharge mandated programmes and activities.

We successfully worked to ensure an adequate level of resources for the programme budget 2018-2019 for full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities. The Group believes that Member States must provide the United Nations with sufficient and needed resources so that it can perform its role as the key enabler of the development agenda. Strengthening the development pillar remains a priority for the G77 and China.

The Group of 77 and China welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to improve the Organization's ability to deliver on its mandates through management reform. 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.

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 and that management reform is aimed at strengthening the ability of this Organization to implement all its mandates fully and effectively, particularly in the field.

The Group attaches great importance to the efficient functioning of this Committee. The late submission of documentation is of continuing concern to the Group. We regret the delay in the submission of a number of documents late in the session which multiplied the difficulties faced by the Committee during the process.

Mr. Chairman,

It was a privilege to have benefited from the very able and experienced G-77 coordinators of the various agenda items who supported me in crafting language for statements and draft resolutions and in the negotiation of difficult and complex issues. I wish to place on record my deep appreciation to the delegations of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China for their support.

On behalf of the Group, I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy holiday season, and for those who are traveling, I wish them a safe journey.