



**EGYPT**

**G77 Chairmanship  
2018**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
BY MR. MOHAMED FOUAD, COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF  
EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 136 PROGRAMME  
BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2018–2019: FIRST PERFORMANCE REPORT AT  
THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, 12 December 2018**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136, in particular on the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

2. I would like to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, for introducing the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/73/493 and Mr. Babou Sene, Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the Committee's report as contained in document A/73/625.

Madam Chair,

3. As an essential tool of the budget methodology, the performance reports are a particularly important benchmark of the proper implementation of the budget process. The Group stresses the importance of respecting the budgetary process as set out in resolutions 41/213, 42/211 and 48/228 and reaffirmed in many others, including resolution 72/266 A. No changes to the budget methodology, to the established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations are to be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly.

4. The Group takes note of the Secretary General's requests regarding the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account. While recognizing that the liquidity situation of the Organization needs to be closely monitored, the Group emphasizes that it is the collective responsibility of the Membership to pay contributions in full, on time and without conditions. As mentioned in several General Assembly resolutions, Member States must provide the Organization with the adequate resources needed to implement mandated activities efficiently.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group of 77 and China notices several important issues that stem from the Secretary-General's report such as the proper reflection in performance reports of the rental cost savings arising from the implementation of flexible workplace strategies; and the various measures that

the Secretary-General has adopted in 2018 to temporarily defer expenditures as a result of growing cash deficits.

6. While considering these and other issues that the Secretary General brings to our attention under this agenda item, the Group of 77 and China reiterates its call for all mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to be provided with adequate resources from the regular budget for their implementation.

7. In conclusion, I wish to assure you – Madame Chair- of the readiness of the Group of 77 and China to engage constructively during the negotiations on this very important and time sensitive agenda item.

I thank you, Madam Chair.