



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY HER EXCELLENCY CAROLYN RODRIGUES-BIRKETT,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 139: REVIEW OF EFFICIENCY: MANAGEMENT REFORM
– SHIFTING THE MANAGEMENT PARADIGM IN THE UNITED NATIONS,
AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-
FIFTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(NEW YORK, OCTOBER 28TH, 2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 139: “Review of efficiency: Management reform- Implementation: Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations”.
2. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet for presenting the report of the Secretary General entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: review of progress in the implementation of management reform” which is contained in document A/75/201. We would also like to thank the Advisory Committee for their report on this matter through the Chairman of the said expert body, Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong.
3. The Group acknowledges the observations and recommendations made by the Board of Auditors on this matter in the context of their 2019 report on the financial statements of the United Nations (A/75/5 Vol. I), which we will consider as appropriate, together with the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chair,

4. There are many elements in the Secretary General’s report which the Group would like to address but due to time constraints we will highlight only a few. We believe that these elements are all related to the implementation of the management reform and should also be discussed under their corresponding agenda items.
5. The Group, like the rest of the membership took a leap of faith when we adopted the proposals in resolution 72/266 B, to transform, hopefully for the better, the ability of the United Nations to deliver on all of its mandates in the different areas of its activities. The implementation of most of the changes started in January 2019, though others had already begun course before the end 2018. Despite the short time that has since elapsed, the Group is pleased that we are reviewing the progress of this collective commitment, taking into account that management functions of the United Nations Secretariat are the backbone of the whole

system. Without its proper functioning, we could not entertain high hopes for any other processes or reforms in the Organization.

6. Our expectations for the reform process as set forth by resolution 72/266 B, resolution 72/303, and resolution 73/281, aimed above all at increasing transparency and accountability of the UN Secretariat to Member States. We agreed at that time, that the United Nations needed to cut cumbersome bureaucratic procedures within the Secretariat, but we also reaffirmed that this continues to be very distinct from the oversight functions of intergovernmental bodies, in particular the General Assembly, which remains key in this reform.

7. The Group just like the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee remains concerned over the implementation of the delegation of authority framework and acknowledges that there is still room for improvement, in particular the need for explicit sub-delegation of authority to staff with Umoja roles and the need to develop capacity to revoke such delegation when necessary as an element of risk control. The Group will carefully look into how accountability can continue to be strengthened, especially when considering the Secretary General's report on progress towards an accountability system in the UN Secretariat.

Mr. Chair,

8. The changes within and between the current DMSPC and DOS, including the restructuring of the human resources offices and the consolidation of ICT functions, amongst other elements of this track of reform were to be accomplished not only in a post neutral manner, but also by ensuring its cost neutrality, a key buy-in for many Members States when considering this reform. We are yet to receive a cost-benefit analysis of the current reforms as requested by the General Assembly at the beginning of this process which should have guided our decisions on the same. The Group will follow up on the current achievements viz-a-viz the cost or if we are faced with a reality of costs that will be added as years go by, not unlike other projects or processes in the Organization.

9. As pointed out by the ACABQ, the Group is highly concerned that the restructuring and creation of DOS and DMSPC has not yet fully specified and clearly documented the distinct roles and functions of the two departments, which further complicates the review of the funding of these two departments as requested by the Secretary General in his proposal for a new funding model.

10. The Group reiterates its support to the work carried out by the Uniformed Capability Support Division, as a single point of contact for troop and police contributing countries on all administrative and logistical issues related to force generation, memorandums of understanding, contingent-owned equipment, and reimbursement. We hope to obtain further information on how this Division is fulfilling its role to facilitate a more responsive Secretariat support to troop and police-contributing countries.

11. Due to the far-reaching and multidimensional impact of these reforms, at Headquarters and in the field, we cannot help but express concern at the delays in the timelines for realizing many of its expected benefits. Indeed, new and inevitable factors like COVID-19 have a great

impact on the achievement of these benefits but perhaps others could have been anticipated. The Group is interested in further details on the functioning of the benefits management framework, especially towards a clear demonstration of the direct relationship of reform measures with those benefits, and whether they are contributing to support programme delivery and mandate implementation and holding managers accountable for the programmatic and financial performance of their programmes.

Mr. Chair,

12. When we last addressed this topic, the Group clearly stressed the importance of ensuring equitable geographical representation and gender parity at all levels. The Group requested that efforts should be intensified towards achieving equitable geographical representation, by means of a comprehensive geographical representation strategy. We highlighted that such a strategy should also identify the inherent biases in processes that allow for domination by certain regional groupings of particular departments or senior management posts. In response, the Secretary General has put forward a geographical diversity strategy, for which the Group still has many doubts, and as such, will continue to examine this topic within the overall consideration of the human resources management agenda items.

13. Additionally, we also stressed the need to ensure fair and increased access to United Nations procurement opportunities for developing countries and countries in transition. In this regard, the introduction of a single entity to manage the integrated end-to-end supply chain in the Secretariat through the integration of procurement and logistics capacities was a decision that involved a great deal of risk for the Organization. However, the Group again puts its trust in the Secretary General's proposals and while we believe that much still has to be done regarding supply chain management, we have to give credit where it is due in terms of how the supply chain of the Secretariat has enabled rapid deployment of resources during this pandemic.

14. We also stress the importance of data security and transparency of the United Nations. As the Secretariat, in collaboration with agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system is shifting to cloud computing and ICT platform, the decision making of the UN increasingly relies on ICT. We are concerned that whether external entities, for example software providers could get access to the data of UN and emphasize that those data should be transparent and available to the member states. We will further explore this topic at the informal consultation.

Mr. Chair,

15. To conclude, I wish to reassure you of the Group's commitment to engage constructively on this important agenda item, with a view to concluding our consultations in a timely manner.

I thank you.