



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MS
MEGAYLA AUSTIN, MINISTER COUNSELLOR OF THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 141: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR
2021: SUBVENTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR
DISARMAMENT RESEARCH AT MAIN PART OF FIFTH COMMITTEE
DURING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, October 5th, 2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 141: Programme Budget for 2021: Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (UNIDIR).

2. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller and Assistant Secretary-General, for introducing the note of the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the UNIDIR resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2021, as contained in document A/75/83. We also wish to thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the ACABQ, for introducing their related report contained in document A/75/7/Add 1.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group notes the proposal of the Secretary-General to change the procedure of submitting budget request for a subvention from the regular budget to UNIDIR with an aim to streamline and enhance efficiency. In this regard, the Group welcomes all efforts made by the Secretary-General to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in the management of budgetary resources.

4. The Group also notes that a subvention to UNIDIR of \$276,200 (before re-costing) from the regular budget of the United Nations for 2021 has been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2021. This figure reflects the recurrent resources required to cover the costs of the post of Director (D-2). The Group will seek clarifications on the implication of presenting such resources under the object of expenditure "fellowships, grants and contributions" in informal discussions.

5. Nevertheless, the Group believes that the streamlined process would not impact the substantive discussion on budgetary resources and trusts that the Secretary-General will provide the annual report of the Director of UNIDIR at the same time as the proposed programme budget, in order to ensure that information on the financial situation of the Institute is available to ACABQ.

6. In conclusion, the Group wishes to assure you of its full cooperation during deliberations on this important agenda item with the objective of concluding in a timely manner.

I thank you.