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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS. SIRITHON WAIRATPANIJ, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 134: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM 2016-2017: REVISED ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 15 December 2016)**

Madam Chairperson,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, in particular on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions and twenty-fourth special session.

2. At the outset, the Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General as contained in document A/71/623, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee as contained in document A/71/688.

Madam Chairperson,

3. The Group of 77 and China reiterate the long-standing position of the Group that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities to ensure their full and effective implementation.

4. The Group attaches great importance to the human rights pillar of the United Nations, and is, in particular, a strong supporter of the work of the Human Rights Council.

Madam Chairperson,

5. The Group of 77 and China note that the additional requirements related to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first to thirty-third sessions, held in 2016, and twenty-fourth special session, held in December 2015, are estimated at \$49,385,000 of which \$23,019,800 relates to activities of a perennial as well as of a recurrent nature that has therefore been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The Group further notes that the remaining requirements of \$26,365,200 are new requirements for the bienniums 2016-2017 and 2018-2019, and that the amount of \$14,910,500 would require additional appropriations to be charged against the contingency fund for the biennium 2016-2017.

6. The Group notes the proposal of the Secretary-General for the establishment of 11 new posts at the P-5, P-4 and P-3 levels to support the activities mandated by the Council. The Group also notes the Advisory Committee's recommendations in this regard.

7. In this context, the Group believes that the mandates approved by the Human Rights Council should be provided with sufficient resources.

8. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China assure you of our continued commitment to participate constructively in the consideration of this agenda item with a view to reaching conclusion in a timely manner.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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BY MS. SIRITHON WAIRATPANIJ, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 134 PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM 2016-2017: FIRST PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM 2016-2017, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 15 December 2016)**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 134, in particular on the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.
2. I would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, for introducing the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/71/576 and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for presentation of the Committee's report as contained in document A/71/680.

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 and, therefore, does not support any attempt that may infringe on such process by way of passing resolution on the Performance Report and Budget Outline to that effect. If we object to piecemeal budgeting because it does not give us a coherent view of the whole, we should also object to attempts at piecemeal reform of the budgetary process. The Group will not support any action that could be detrimental to the current budgetary process.
4. As mentioned in several General Assembly resolutions, Member States must provide the Organization with the adequate resources needed to implement mandated activities efficiently. It is our collective responsibility to demand and guarantee the full respect of the budgetary process, as set out in resolutions 41/213, 42/211 and 48/228 and reaffirmed in many others. It shall also be taken into account that no changes to the budget methodology, to the established budgetary procedures and practices or to the financial regulations be implemented without prior review and approval by the General Assembly.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group of 77 and China take note of the positive outcomes of the forward purchasing as this tool provided more certainty, as the price to be paid in future purchasing of currency is known in advance. The Group will continue to follow this matter with interest.
6. The Group of 77 and China call for all mandates approved by the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations be provided with adequate resources from the regular budget for their implementation.
7. In conclusion, I wish to assure you of the readiness of the Group of 77 and China to engage constructively on the negotiations on this very important agenda item.

I thank you, Madam Chair.