



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 149: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, SUPPORT ACCOUNT FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, AT THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 11 May 2017)

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, specifically, on the support account for peacekeeping operations.
2. At the outset, the Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller; as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

Madam Chair,

3. The Group of 77 and China remains a staunch supporter of peacekeeping operations. The members of the Group of 77 and China contribute financially to the budgets of peacekeeping missions; are the largest troop and police contributors; and host most of the current active operations. As such, the Group believes that United Nations peacekeeping operations must be provided with adequate resources for backstopping, so as to enable them to effectively and efficiently discharge their increasingly complex mandates.
4. Over the last few years, the changing nature of peacekeeping operations has posed additional challenges for their support component. The Group recognizes that new requirements have been placed on personnel both in the field and back at the Headquarters and support structures. Even so, the Group of 77 and China reiterates that the level of the support account should broadly correspond to the size and complexity of peacekeeping operations on the ground.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group notes that the Secretary-General's proposal for 2017/2018 with respect to post and non-post resources is \$312.7 million. This is an increase of \$3 million from the resources approved for the 2016/17 period. The Group further notes that the Secretary-General's proposal for 2017/2018 will result in a net reduction of three posts and positions. During informal consultations, the Group will carefully analyze the Secretary-General's requests

for new posts and financial resources, to ensure that they are indeed relevant to the support needs of UN staff, as well as troop and police contingents on the ground.

6. During our deliberations on this agenda item, the Group of 77 and China will closely scrutinize the Secretary-General's proposals for the establishment, abolishment, reclassification, reassignment, and redeployment of posts, towards the envisaged realignment of the capacity of the support account in areas such as force generation, environmental responsibility, medical support, safety of staff, human rights, democracy, governance and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, which are among the Group's priorities.

Madam Chair,

7. The Group of 77 and China concurs with the view of the Advisory Committee that the various reform initiatives undertaken in recent years by the Secretariat, such as the Global Field Support Strategy, the Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning System, and other supply chain management improvements have not had a discernible impact on the level of resources being requested under the support account. The rationale for the massive and continuing investment in these initiatives was medium to long-term efficiencies and economies of scale. We have yet to see these materialize. Of note the Group observes that the requirements for the Umoja enterprise resource planning project in the amount of \$25 million represent a 48.8% increase compared with the provision for 2016/2017. The Group will also examine the proposed organisational restructuring of the Logistical Support Division during informal consultations.

8. Turning to the issue of representation, the Group continues to note with concern the lack of improvement in the broad representation of troop and police contributing countries within the peacekeeping support structure, both in the field and at Headquarters, and in particular, at senior levels. The Group recalls that the General Assembly has consistently requested the Secretary-General to make concrete efforts to improve this situation, especially in the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support. In this regard, the Group will be seeking updates from the Secretariat on measures taken to improve TCC and PCC representation during our informal consultations.

Madam Chair,

9. In conclusion, the Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate our support for United Nations peacekeeping operations and adequate backstopping capabilities at Headquarters. The Group reassures you of its determination to engage constructively on this agenda item, with a view to providing peacekeeping operations with necessary and sufficient resources to effectively deliver their mandates.

Thank you, Madam Chair.