



**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: UNITED  
NATIONS LOGISTICS BASE (UNLB), AT THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE  
SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 12 May 2017)**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor 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 - United Nations Logistics Base.
2. The Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiostas, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on the Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing their respective reports.

Madame Chair,

3. At the outset, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the reprofiling of the Logistics Base to the Global Service Centre which will comprise the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and the United Nations facility in Valencia as a unified entity, designed as part of efforts of the Secretariat to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Logistics Base in supporting peacekeeping missions to better deliver their mandates.
4. In line with improving the functioning of UN logistics services in general and the Logistics Base in particular, the Group would wish raise the following points:
  - i. The Group, just like the Advisory committee, is concerned about the inconsistent recording of expenditures in budgeting and accounting, which has made it difficult to properly assess budget implementation and make comparisons over time. Underexpenditure in budget classes has also been noted as well as the use of available funds for unbudgeted purposes.
  - ii. The Group takes note of the Board's recommendation regarding the need for establishment of procedures to support and monitor the missions' preparation of acquisition plans and the evaluation and analysis of mission requirements, the development of a global acquisition plan and of a procurement strategy and will look forward to getting more information on the current arrangements in place from the Secretary-General.
  - iii. The Group recalls General Assembly resolution 69/309 as well as paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/288 and therefore reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive study regarding the deployment of the Global Service

Centre in two locations. In this respect, the Group also takes note of the comments by the Advisory committee, regarding the information on the revised study and the two business cases as provided by Secretary General and will seek for more information about the study to understand the implication of deploying the Service Centre in two locations. In the same regard, the Group expects to receive a breakdown of the detailed staffing in both the Brindisi and Valencia locations.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group will further be interested in getting more information in relation to the Service for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies and its client missions, including the resource requirements at the client missions, the status of outputs, the utilization of such outputs and the impact of the Service on mandate delivery.

6. The Group welcomes the restructuring of UNLB's Supply Chain Service with the supply chain structures of the Logistics Support Division of the Department of Field Support and those of peacekeeping and looks forward to understanding the efficiencies to be gained from this initiative during the informal meeting.

Madam Chair

7. The G77 and China wishes to recall the report of the Advisory Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations in which the Secretary-General was requested to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of different entities involved in air operations management for field missions (A/70/742), including clarifying the roles of the Strategic Air Operations Centre, the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre, which is part of the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda, and the Air Transport Section within the Logistics Support Division of the Department of Field Support at Headquarters. The Group looks forward to obtaining updates in this regard.

8. Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/288, the Group further wishes to welcome the report and recommendations of the OIOS regarding the Strategic Deployment Stocks and will be interested in receiving updates from the Secretariat in this regard.

9. By resolution 69/307, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to develop scalability models to inform the resource requirements for the support account for peacekeeping operations, UNLB and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe. The Advisory Committee notes the continued absence of a comprehensive scalability model for UNLB. The Group therefore looks forward to hearing the progress made in this regard.

10. The Group continues to support the use and development of in-house capacity as opposed to hiring external consultancies especially where such capacities already exist within the Secretariat's mandate.

Madam Chair,

11. In conclusion, allow me to assure you of the Group's readiness to engage constructively in order to reach a successful conclusion on this agenda item.

I thank you, Madam Chair.