

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Ambassador Mauro Vieira, on Agenda Item 134: Review of Efficiency – Shifting the Management Paradigm in the United Nations, at the main part of the Seventy-Second Session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

New York, 4 December 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil warmly welcomes Secretary-General António Guterres to this Committee and thanks him for presenting his vision for United Nations management reform.

My delegation also thanks Mr. Carlos Ruiz-Massieu for presenting the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil welcomes the efforts led by the Secretary-General towards a shift in the management paradigm of the United Nations. Management reform must strengthen the Organization's ability to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandates in every pillar of its activities: peace and security, development and human rights.

Brazil welcomes, in particular, the Secretary-General's commitment to strengthening the development pillar. The United Nations is uniquely positioned to foster the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

It is unreasonable to expect the United Nations to deliver on these agendas without proper institutional arrangements. The UN must be provided with adequate tools and resources to fulfill its role in eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty.

Brazil further welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to precision and accuracy in the budgetary process. The one year budgetary period may contribute to this objective. On this issue, my delegation echoes the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that, as a point of principle, the level of detail and

information made available for the consideration of budgetary proposals must be maintained.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil deeply appreciates the Secretary-General's commitment to consultation with all Member States. This process has fostered a constructive environment of negotiations, which we hope will persist until its conclusion.

Sound processes are the basis for the better results we all seek for the United Nations. Meaningful reform requires ownership of the process by the entire membership of the Organization. This is owed to the Charter itself, which states that decisions on budgetary questions are important decisions of the General Assembly.

Reforms must increase transparency, accountability, effectiveness, and oversight in the Organization, without altering its intergovernmental, multilateral, and international character. Brazil underscores the oversight roles of the General Assembly, relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies. In particular, my delegation stresses the importance of strengthening the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation underscores the importance of renewed efforts towards ensuring equitable geographical representation and gender parity in the Secretariat. While we applaud the Secretary-General's attention to these issues, it behooves us to recognize that they are still far from being adequately addressed throughout the Organization. In neither case can we be content with the slow progress seen in past years and, indeed, decades: we must find new, faster ways to move the United Nations towards greater balance and representation.

Brazil also recalls the need for increased access of developing countries to procurement opportunities in the United Nations system.

Mr. Chairman,

The issues before the Committee involve great complexity and political stakes. In spite of this, the Fifth Committee has succeeded, in the past, in building wide-ranging agreement on profound changes to the Organization. These changes often

serve the United Nations well for many decades. Brazil is confident that, faced with the proposals put before it by the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee will once more rise to the challenge and forge agreement we need to make them a reality.

My delegation stands ready to reach an outcome on this momentous agenda item that leads to a more effective and efficient United Nations.

Thank you very much.