

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT  
MISSION OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 136:  
PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET BIENNIUM 2018-2019: RESIDENT  
COORDINATOR SYSTEM, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND  
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 17 October 2017)**

Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136: Proposed Program Budget Biennium 2018 to 2019, Resident Coordinator System.
2. The Group thanks Ms Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General, and extends our appreciation to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing its related report.

Mr Chair,

3. The G77 and China recognizes the importance of the Resident Coordinator System, and its key role within the Development Pillar of the United Nations.
4. Therefore, the Group supports the recommendations of the ACABQ report A/72/7/Add.5 in its paragraphs 9 and 10, and is disappointed to see that the Secretary General's Report (A/72/337) in this regard, it is a partial fulfilment of the mandate given by the General Assembly on its resolution A/71/272 B, that requested the Secretary-General to present at this session, a refined proposal on the cost-sharing arrangement and management of the financing of the Resident Coordinators System, and thereof the associated costs in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.
5. Nevertheless, the Group understands that this is a special momentum for the United Nations itself, given by the context of the UN Reform proposals, and reiterates, the great importance that a comprehensive reform of the United Nations System, aiming towards a full implementation of the Agenda 2030, must be aligned with all of the Organization's budget cycles and global strategic objectives (QCPR mandate)
6. The Group welcomes the conviction with which the Secretary-General has indicated that it is determined to carry out this process, in a transparent and accountable manner, and has great expectations that it will continue with the same impetus from now until its completion, as an example of democracy within all members of the United Nations System.

Mr. Chair,

7. To conclude, the G77 and China reiterates that it remains committed to strengthening the development pillar of this Organisation, and will continue to constructively participate in the upcoming deliberations on this agenda item, not forgetting to address the root causes of frustration that impede the full enjoyment of our rights, perpetuating inequalities and inequity.

I thank you Mr. Chair.



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BY BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT  
MISSION OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 136:  
PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET BIENNIUM 2018-2019: REVISED ESTIMATES  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE AT THE MAIN PART OF THE  
SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 17 October 2017)

Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136: Proposed Program Budget Biennium 2018 to 2019: Revised Estimates for the International Trade Centre.
2. The Group thanks Ms Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General, and extends our appreciation to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing its related report.

Mr Chair,

3. The G77 and China recognises the significant role of the International Trade Centre as a focal point, within the United Nations system, for technical assistance and cooperation activities for trade and international business development. The Center is delivering on its mandate effectively by working in partnership with other intergovernmental organizations, countries and regions. That, we trust, is a dynamism that we Member States wish to see happen; to avoid duplication of efforts and silo-mentality, which are more expensive and less productive.
4. The Group reaffirms the importance it attaches to the work of the Centre in providing global public goods in the form of trade and market intelligence, technical support, and linkages to markets and entities in the public and private sectors, to improve the international competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises from developing countries and economies in transition. The Group particularly appreciates the focus placed by the ITC on less developed countries, landlocked developing countries, Small Island Developing States, sub-Saharan Africa, and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.
5. In view of the critical role it plays, the Group welcomes the Centre's plans to operationalise its risk management framework, deepen its approach to costing and improve its project management systems through enhanced automated tracking of key performance indicators. We are also pleased that the ITC has stated that it will deliver on its annual evaluation work programmes for the upcoming biennium, and has maintained its practice of continuing to disseminate key learning messages through an annual evaluation synthesis report. The G77 and China commends the ITC's commitment to strengthening accountability, transparency and the delivery of quality results.

Mr Chair,

6. The G77 and China also wish to acknowledge and recognise the direct link between the overarching goal of the ITC, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially the commitment to ensure youth and women employment and economic empowerment.

7. Given the significance of the Centre as a major contributor of sustainable development, we will closely analyse the Secretary General's proposed reductions in resources for the biennium in anticipation of expected gains from Umoja efficiencies that the ITC plans to bring about in the biennium 2018-2019.

8. The Group maintains that the Centre must be provided with the appropriate resources so as to not hamper its ability to deliver its mandates, and the priorities in the ITC's 2018-2019 Strategic Framework, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in 2016. For that to happen it is necessary that adequate resources are availed to the Center.

9. During informal consultations on this item, the G77 and China will also seek to clarify issues pertaining to the persistent low rate of compliance with the requirement for advance booking and purchase of tickets, in order to promote a more efficient and effective use of the Centre's resources.

Mr Chair,

10. To conclude, the G77 and China reiterates its support for the ITC and remains committed to strengthening the development pillar of this Organisation and will continue to constructively participate in the upcoming deliberations on this agenda item.

I thank you.