**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MR. MOHAMED FOUAD AHMED, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF EGYPT TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE FIRST
RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NEW YORK, 29 MARCH 2018)**

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Let me begin by expressing the Group's appreciation for you, your Bureau members, as well as all stakeholders in achieving a successful outcome during the First Resumed Session. The Group recognizes the work of Ms Sharon van Buerle and her team, as well as the conference service officers who are the backbone of this Committee.

The Group is pleased that the Committee has finished its work within the allocated time during this session. We welcome the constructive spirit of all delegations during our discussions, which has enabled the Committee to take decisions on a number of key items of importance to this Group.

The Group is especially pleased with the outcome of negotiations on the Joint Inspection Unit and air travel which culminated with two resolutions that we believe will help enhance the efficiency of the Organization in delivering on its mandates and set better guidelines with regard to air travel management.

Moving forward, the Group will work with you, your Bureau, and all delegations on a pragmatic approach to the heavy agenda facing us in the Second Resumed Session. The Group has full confidence in the commitment of all stakeholders towards delivering all necessary documents on time, to enable the Committee to finish its work within the prescribed time as well.

In closing, the Group reaffirms its commitment to continuing to engage in discussions in the forthcoming Second Resumed Session in the spirit of constructiveness, flexibility, and mutual compromise, with a view to the broadest possible agreement in the best interests of the Organization as well as our common goals.

I thank you, Mr Chair.