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STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) BY MRS. JULIETTE BABB-RILEY , DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY (FIFTH) COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 22 December 2018)

Madam Chair,

1. I have the singular honour on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to congratulate you and the Bureau for guiding our work during the main part of the seventy-third session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.
2. CARICOM appreciates the dedication, commitment and hard work of the Coordinators and the Secretariat of the Committee for their invaluable support during the Committee's consideration of issues, which we view as inherently essential for the efficient and effective functioning of this Organization.
3. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In this regard, we take this opportunity to commend the Chairmanship for its skilled leadership in empowering the Group to navigate this challenging year.

Madam Chair,

4. As we reflect on the decisions of the Committee during this Session, CARICOM recognizes that accomplishments across several agenda items are integral to the optimal functioning of the United Nations.
5. Of particular importance is the 2018 consensus, agreed upon by all delegations in the Committee, on the scales of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to be implemented for the years 2019-2021, until the next triennial review of the scales at the seventy-sixth session in 2021. CARICOM believes that the work of the Committee to achieve consensus hinges upon the great respect for the existing mechanism for negotiation and the sovereign right of every Member State to pronounce its views on the administrative and budgetary functioning of the Organization. We therefore expect that any future consideration of these items be approached with the highest regard for the Member-state driven intergovernmental negotiating process.
6. CARICOM also wishes to highlight the achievements obtained in the items relating to the Programme Budget for 2018 to 2019 such as the Revised Estimates concerning for example, the Resident Coordinator system, Programme Budget Implications (PBIs) and Capital projects across our Regional Commissions. Furthermore, CARICOM welcomes the progress obtained in matters relating to the Administration of Justice, Management Reform and the United Nations Pension system.

Madam Chair,

7. During this session, CARICOM stood by its commitment to engage in transparent, inclusive and open negotiations, aimed at achieving consensus on all agenda items.

8. CARICOM therefore reiterates its commitment to engage constructively in the work of the Fifth Committee in its First and Second resumed sessions. We expect that the spirit of cooperation, flexibility and compromise will underpin our deliberations on the matters entrusted to this Committee for its consideration.