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**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF BANGLADESH ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE
FIFTH COMMITTEE, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 9 October 2018)**

(Please check against delivery)

Madam Chair,

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the delegation of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We are making this statement in our national capacity.

Madam Chair,

Let me congratulate you on your assumption of charge as the Chair of the Fifth Committee. We, by this time, know how much you cherish the memories of your engagement as a young delegate assigned to this Committee. So, welcome back to the Fifth Committee.

We congratulate your Bureau members on their election and commend the work of the outgoing Bureau during the 72nd session. We recognize the invaluable work and support of the Secretariat.

We also appreciate the contribution made by the ACABQ under the chairman-ship of **Mr. Carlos Ruiz-Massieu**. We hope that the ACABQ reports would be received by this Committee in good time in order to help expedite our work.

Madam Chair,

We remain confident that under your able leadership and guidance, we will be able to conduct the work of this main part of 73rd Session in an open, inclusive, constructive and transparent manner and conclude with a positive note within stipulated deadlines. I assure you of our fullest cooperation.

There have been sustained efforts to improve the working methods of the Fifth Committee in the past few years. We believe there is scope to do much further. While overnight changes may be difficult, incremental improvements would be certainly most welcome. We have a few suggestions in connection with this:

First, it is important to use the position of facilitators for various agenda items towards accelerating informal consultations and bridging divergences; it is often the case that the informal consultations on specific agenda items get deferred due to extraneous considerations without the steady guidance of a facilitator.

Second, in case of reported small group discussions, it is most crucial that the rest of the Committee is kept informed about the goings on without the latter taking recourse to undue speculations and indefinite waiting and biding time on the sideline.

Third, there is scope for better utilizing formal sessions to try proceed with negotiations on individual texts. Most often, formal sessions are adjourned in preference to informal or informal consultations which do not necessarily lead to much efficiency gains.

Fourth, given the limited time allotted to different agenda items in formal or informal sessions, delegations may utilize the time for actual negotiations instead of explaining respective positions often on repeated occasions.

Fifth, while the Bureau plays the most critical role in scheduling sessions, there should be a practical approach to accommodating the agenda items that have a fair chance of being dealt with substantively. Regular consultations among Bureau members and agenda specific facilitators should help further mainstream scheduling related issues.

As usual, Fifth Committee is packed with prioritized, difficult and challenging agenda during this session. To keep this organization functional, vibrant and living up to the expectations, it is important to uphold our spirit of compromise and accomplish our assignments in time.

Madam Chair,

My delegation strongly supports the priorities set by the Group of 77 and China in this session's Program of Work. Ensuring administrative and financial efficiency of the United Nations should be at the top of the list. For this and for mandate delivery, ensuring adequate resources is pivotal. Qualitative changes are essential in Human Resource Management taking into account the geographical representation, gender equality and different reform initiatives already introduced by the UN Secretary-General. It is also important to treat each individual agenda item on its merits without creating artificial linkages between different issues.

For Bangladesh, Administrative management and budget of the peacekeeping operations would remain as one of the constant priorities.

Madam Chair,

The tasks ahead of this Committee are indeed challenging as it always has been. But collectively we can indeed forge ahead and succeed.

I thank you.