



**REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MS. NADA
TARBUSH, FIRST SECRETARY AT THE MISSION OF THE STATE OF
PALESTINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF
THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 27 December 2019)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to make a few closing remarks during the main part of the 74th session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

Let me begin by reflecting on some achievements of the Committee during this session.

Despite the challenges associated with moving to the first annual programme plan and budget in almost 45 years, we have succeeded in adopting a programme budget that ensures an adequate level of resources for the United Nations to be able to fully deliver on all mandated programmes and activities. However, this budget's significance is contingent on our commitment to honour our legal and financial obligations by contributing with the necessary funds to back it up.

The Group has placed a particular focus on protecting the development pillar of the United Nations in all its aspects, including the budget of areas such as DESA, UNCTAD and the Economic Regional Commissions, so that the Organization can perform its role as an enabler of the development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group wishes to emphasize the importance it places on reforms. All of us want to see an effective and fit-for-purpose United Nations that can fully deliver on its intergovernmentally-agreed mandates. Naturally, reforms are accompanied by teething pains. This session was the first time that the entirety of the Programme Plan was submitted for the consideration and decision of the General Assembly without any specific recommendations. Also, it was the first time that the sequential nature of the review processes of the proposed programme budget conducted by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee was not preserved.

The Group is hopeful that guided by the resolution we have adopted today, the Secretariat and Member States will be able to continue to work hand in hand towards a better implementation of the ongoing management reforms, in particular the annual programme budget on a trial basis. We also hope that the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination will be preserved and further strengthened.

Further, the Group is pleased that we have successfully concluded deliberations on other important agenda items, including revised estimates and programme budget implications for resolutions, the second performance report for the 2018-2019 programme budget, the United Nations common system, construction and property management, Administration of Justice, and the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The Group is disappointed that due to time constraints, the Committee was unable to consider an area of priority for our Group: Human Resources Management. The Group therefore looks forward to continuing our discussions on this and other items during the First Resumed Session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Committee would not have been able to conclude this session without your precious guidance and the constant engagement of your team on all levels, as well as the tireless work of the Bureau, the Fifth Committee Secretariat, Conference Services, Interpreters, Sound Engineers, and all others who supported and facilitated our work and helped create a positive and conducive atmosphere in which we could complete our work in time. We thank our negotiating partners and all the facilitators for their constructive efforts to achieve a successful outcome this session.

The Group would further like to thank the Secretariat of the Group of 77 and China for the 5th Committee led by the able Mr. Arturo Lozano, for their dedicated and invaluable support.

Finally, allow me to express my personal gratitude to the 135 members of our Group for all the guidance, the drafting of statements and resolution language, the expertise, the unity, the solidarity and the friendship. It has been a privilege to be able to serve this group and the principles it stands for.

We look forward to return to this room after a long-deserved break, and to continue working alongside you all in order to support our United Nations. Happy Holidays to all!

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.