

Mr Chair,

1. I would like to thank Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for presenting the proposed programme budget for 2022. I would also like to thank Mr. Giovanni Battista Buttigieg, chair of the 61st session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, for introducing the related report.

2. Allow me to congratulate you and the members of your Bureau on your election. I am sure that under your able leadership and guidance, the Committee will conclude this session in time and with a positive outcome. Please rest assured of the Brazilian support.

3. I also reiterate my delegation's appreciation for the work of the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee in facilitating its work.

Mr. Chair,

4. My delegation aligns itself with the Statement of the G-77/China.

5. Brazil attaches great importance to the budgetary discussions and the intergovernmental process that approves the resources necessary for the Organization to implement the mandates Member States entrust it with. Strict fiscal responsibility, transparency and good governance, especially in times of particular economic hardship, as seen in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic, are the principles that underpin the legitimacy of the UN's budget.

6. A critical step of the budgetary process is the approval of the programme plans. The accurate fulfilment of the mandates assigned to the Organization by the membership depends on the thorough review of the programmes. Once again, this year, the Committee for Programme and Coordination could not reach consensus on all the programmes, leaving the task of reviewing them to the General Assembly. We believe it is of the utmost importance that the General Assembly address this issue in a timely manner, to avoid any delays in the approval of next year's budget. The early engagement of all Main Committees of the General Assembly and the substantive expertise that they can provide, in line with Resolution 75/243, is paramount for the successful conclusion of this lengthy and complex process.

7. The proposed programme budget for 2022 bears special importance, as it is the final year of the trial period of the annual budgetary cycle, as approved by resolution 72/266A. The experiences gathered in 2019, 2020 and 2021 will provide Member States with sufficient knowledge to review the results of the reform when this Committee addresses it in the 77th session.

8. As usual, the Brazilian delegation will be ready to engage constructively in this session.

I thank you.