



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MR. GLENTIS T. THOMAS, SECOND SECRETARY, DELEGATION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ON AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009 - INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS (IPSAS), IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE 63RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 28 October 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 118: Programme Budget for the Biennium 2008-2009 - International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

2. We thank the Controller, Mr. Mr. Jun Yamazaki, for introducing the first progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations (A/62/806). We would also like thank the Chairperson of ACABQ, Ms. Susan McLurg, for the introduction of the Committee's related report (A/63/495).

Mr. Chairman,

3. In its resolution 60/283, the General Assembly approved the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), as well as the resources requested to begin the process of implementing IPSAS. This decision was taken in conjunction with the replacement of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system (ERP).

4. The Group of 77 and China have always been supportive of measures aimed at enhancing the credibility, transparency and accountability of the financial processes and transactions of the United Nations. We consider the adoption of the IPSAS and the implementation of the ERP a valuable opportunity to achieve concrete progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Group of 77 and China believes that the implementation of IPSAS should be used by the Organization as an opportunity to overcome some of the existing problems of its current accounting system. For instance, the new system must ensure that the financial statements of different entities of the United Nations system are consistent and comparable. In this regard, it is important to guarantee uniformity in the application of the IPSAS standards within the United Nations system. As Chairman of the CEB, the Secretary-General should continue coordinate all aspects related to the transition from the United Nations System Accounting Standards to IPSAS.

6. The Group of 77 and China notes the Secretary-General's comment that, in order to meet the target of 2010 for adoption of IPSAS, significant progress must be made towards the implementation of the required information systems, the establishment of detailed IPSAS-compliant procedures and the training of staff by the end of 2009.

7. The Group emphasizes the importance of ensuring that staff is fully trained in IPSAS in advance of its implementation. Resources associated to the implementation of IPSAS have been provided to

