



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MR. WALEED ALSHAHARI, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 129: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011 - REVISED PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF REGULAR BUDGET RESOURCES FOR THE NORMATIVE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 6 December 2010)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 129 entitled "Programme Budget for the biennium 2010-2011", on the budget for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The Group welcomes the statement delivered by Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet. We also would like to thank the Controller, Mr. Jun Yamazaki, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General, and the Chairperson of the ACABQ, Ms. Susan McLurg, for introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). We pledge our full support to operationalization of the new entity and welcome the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet, a woman from the developing world, as the first head of UN Women. We are confident that under her wise leadership the UN Women will strengthen the United Nations' ability to support the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women in the world.

3. The Group recalls its active and constructive engagement, together with the Non-Aligned Movement through the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), in the process that led to the creation of the new entity with the aim to institutionalize concepts like universality, national ownership and equitable geographical representation, which undoubtedly are some of the fundamental principles of the United Nations. In this regard, we stress the need for the organization chart of the UN Women to fully reflect the principle of universality by including all regions and countries in its structure.

4. The Group of 77 and China trusts that the integration of the mandate of INSTRAW into the UN Women will be effective, resulting in a global training and research work of greater impact, supported by an availability of generous resources and managed by an efficient and able staff, with the view to contribute to the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality worldwide. The Group is also certain that once the transitional period of the Entity is concluded, the training and research will continue to be carried out globally from the physical installations located in the Dominican Republic, taking advantage of the recognized added value of the work experience, the programs, the convenient geographical location and the low operational costs that it offers.

Mr. Chairman

5. The Group of 77 and China notes with concern that only 1.4% of the total estimate of US\$ 500 million is proposed to be financed through the regular budget. We are particularly concerned that the proposal of the Secretary-General suggests that some of the senior posts, at Assistant Secretary-General and Director level, are to be funded through voluntary contributions. The strategic functions of these posts require funding through assessed contributions. The Group believes it is of crucial importance to increase the share of assessed contributions as a means to ensure the necessary predictable, transparent financing for the new entity. The Group is also concerned that overreliance on voluntary contributions by UN Women may change the focus of activities of the new entity, make it donor-driven and thus distancing from priorities agreed by the General Assembly.

6. The Group of 77 and China supports the use of the grant modality (option 1) for the implementation of the regular budget portion of UN Women. We stress the need to ensure transparency in the administration of such resources by maintaining the current process of review and approval of posts and non-post resources by the General Assembly. We further emphasize the importance to follow the established procedures for the review of the strategic framework by the Committee on Programme and Coordination.

7. The Group also believes it is of fundamental importance to ensure equitable geographical distribution in the filling of all posts and positions of the UN Women, including in the Office of the Executive Director, in accordance with the Article 101 of the United Nations Charter, with a view to improve the participation of nationals from developing countries, particularly in senior posts and positions.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its commitment to further advance the agenda of gender equality and the empowerment of women. We would like to assure you of our willingness to engage in a constructive debate in order to reach a positive outcome on this important agenda item.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.