



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MINISTER MARCELO SUAREZ SALVIA OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 136: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 24 October 2011)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on agenda item 136, entitled "United Nations common system".

2. The Group wishes to thank Mr. Kingston Rhodes, Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing the reports of the Commission and the Advisory Committee on this agenda item.

3. We would also like to thank Mr. Lionel Berridge, Acting Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, for presenting the Secretary-General's report, and also Mr. Mauro Pace, President of the Federation of International Civil Servants' Association, Mr. Ridha Zargouni, President of the Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System, and Mr. Claude Jumet, Vice-President of the United Nations International Civil Servants' Federation, for their statements.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Group of 77 and China would like to reaffirm its support to the ICSC, and would like to express our appreciation to the Commission for its commendable work in fulfilling its responsibilities as mandated by the General Assembly. We take note of the report and recommendations of the ICSC which had been prepared in consultation with all interested parties, including representatives of Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

5. The Group also supports a common system approach under the auspices of the ICSC in the development and application of conditions of service, and the principle that all staff serving under similar conditions should receive equal treatment across the United Nations common system.

6. The Group of 77 and China stresses the importance of providing recognition to all staff serving under the UN common system. Most staff are keen to belong to the Organisation because they believe in its goals and objectives and want to be part of a good cause. Hence, we believe that we have a responsibility to provide them with a well-deserved and respectable remuneration package, with enough incentives and allowances to enable them to perform their work efficiently and effectively amidst ongoing challenges. In that regard, the Group supports the ICSC's recommendation on the adjustment of the current base/floor salary scale for staff in the professional and higher categories, the proposed increase of 2.5 % in hardship allowance, mobility allowance and non-removal allowance, the danger pay, the implementation of the 2010 place-to-place survey results and the approved changes to hardship reclassification system. The Group of 77 and China also appreciates the various ICSC's inputs contained in its report, in particular those related to geographical representation, gender balance and diversity policies.

