



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MRS. NORMA TAYLOR ROBERTS, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SEPTEMBER 2005 ON THE PROPOSALS RELATING TO MANAGEMENT REFORM CONTAINED IN THE REVISED DRAFT OUTCOME DOCUMENT SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/59/HLPM/CRP.1/REV.1) (New York 29 July 2005)

Mr. President,

The Group of 77 and China expresses its appreciation to you and the facilitators for the efforts made in preparing this document for our consideration.

I wish to draw your attention, however, to the situation which faces us at this point in our consultations.

Member States were asked to consider proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report "In Larger Freedom..." which could form the basis for consultations on decisions to be taken by the Summit in September.

In order to facilitate this process, a draft outcome document was prepared by you and consultations have been taking place for some time now.

In response to the 1st draft, a number of comments were submitted and questions were raised by the Group. However, not only are we concerned that we see very little reflection, if any, of the Group's input in the revised text, but are surprised that this text contains new proposals which did not appear in the Secretary-General's report nor in the draft outcome document which was presented for our consideration.

Many of these proposals are for the establishment of institutional structures and arrangements which could have far-reaching implications especially for the role of the General Assembly and in particular, the Fifth Committee which is the administrative and budgetary Committee of the General Assembly, and their consideration would require a process of negotiation before any decision could be taken on such issues, as is the case in paragraphs:

- o 140 - creation of an independent audit advisory committee
- o 144 – creation of an independent ethics office
- o 146 – forming an external expert team to work with the Secretary-General on the implementation of reform provisions
- o 147 – Convening by the President of the General Assembly of a group of Permanent Representatives to work with him on management and oversight issues

Regarding paragraph 136, the Group does not accept that the Secretary-General should be given broad authority to redeploy posts. The General Assembly has already granted him the flexibility to re-deploy 50 posts, on an experimental basis and report to it on its implementation. We therefore await this report at the upcoming 60th session.

We reiterate that it is the role of the General Assembly to re-deploy resources to priority areas and not the Secretary-General.

The Group is therefore not in a position, at this stage, to consider these new proposals, many of which would be more appropriately dealt with at the technical rather than at the summit level. We would also request that responses be provided (possibly in a conference room paper) to the questions raised and clarifications sought by the Group on some of the proposals. This would facilitate our consideration of the document.

Mr. President,

The Group of 77 and China, as stated in its first intervention on this section, welcomes the opportunity to engage constructively in consultations in order to ensure a successful outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September this year.

I thank you.

