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Chair,

I have the honor to convey this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the closing of the Fifth Committee for the second and final part of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

Once more, we have managed to conclude our deliberations and decision-making process despite the obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since last March, the working methods of our Committee have shifted and thought temporary in nature, they enabled us to continue reaching out to one another to discuss our positions in order to deliver the work entrusted to us. We hope for an improvement in circumstances that will enable us to resume our normal order of business and put behind us this exceptional way of conducting the work of the Committee.

The Group wishes to recognize your leadership Mr. Chair and that of your Bureau, as well as all facilitators. Furthermore, we wish to recognize the always efficient and nonstop work of Mr. Lionelito Berridge and his team.

Chair,

Peacekeeping is the largest and most visible representation of the United Nations and in that regard, the Group is pleased that despite the unusual and challenging session, that once more the Committee extended its work beyond the official end of the session, and have managed to bridge the gap at an earlier date than in previous years and have approved the budget appropriations that the peacekeeping operations and their support components need to continue fulfilling their mandates. The Group commends the flexibility shown by all groups and delegations in reaching consensus on the global figure at 44 million dollars in ACABQ recommendations. However, the Group reaffirms that it does not believe in arbitrary, across-the-board cost-cutting exercises that do not take into consideration the differences and peculiarities of each peacekeeping operation nor the situation on the ground, especially now in the context of COVID-19.

The Group appreciates the efforts made by all negotiators to finalize agreements, in particular for the

of Auditors. We also welcome the milestone agreement reached regarding the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations, the first in years. Of course, we are still far away from our desired outcome for this item and look forward to its continued discussion.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Group would have preferred to see some issues have different outcomes. We especially regret that some items could not enjoy the consideration of the Committee. In particular, the Group would have preferred to discuss the Secretary General's report stemming from resolution 74/251. However, due to the late date at which the Secretary General's report was issued it became evident to the Group that flexibility was required from us in order to give priority to the peacekeeping budget and defer consideration of the aforementioned report to the 75th session. The Group complied with this, but we did so with deep concern, since introducing the report after the official finishing date of the Second Resumed Session is hardly complying with the General Assembly's mandate in this regard. We sincerely hope that when this item is considered, our colleagues give it the due consideration