



PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE ON  
ITEMS 122, 124, 128, 129 AND 136 – INVESTING IN THE UN:  
DETAILED REPORT (A/60/846/ADD.5),  
FIFTH COMMITTEE, 28 JUNE 2006**

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Thank you Mr Chairman,

1 My delegation supports the proposal put forward by the Group of 77 and China that consideration of the Procurement Report A/60/846 Add. 5 be deferred to the 61st session of the UNGA. There is simply no reasonable alternative if we want to have an informed discussion.

2 Procurement is of significant importance. It is a complex endeavour that involves large amounts of money and UN staff. The issue has also become something of a lightning rod, given the attention it has attracted. Many recent criticisms of the UN have revolved around procurement and the apparent transgressions by UN staff. We know that some UN staff have been put on administrative leave for 6 months now without formal charges. A senior UN official has also played up in the media speculation that the UN is riddled with corruption.

3 So it behooves us to address this topic in some detail. But the Procurement Report was just completed very recently. All of us need time to evaluate and study the Report. We would not do justice to it or to the broader issue if we look at them in a cursory manner. With so much at stake, we cannot be seen to be simply endorsing the Report and its contents without a thorough review.

4 We also understand that the procurement report was prepared taking into account the findings of a study by Deloitte and Touche. This study was commissioned by the USG/DM. None of us were provided with an opportunity to seriously study the D&T report or evaluate its findings. Instead, we had a cursory presentation on the same morning when Management and Secretariat Reform was being debated. These unevaluated findings of the D&T report have apparently been used as reference by the Secretariat to draw conclusions. Frankly, we are not convinced that the findings of the D&T report are robust. Hence, we are sceptical

that the findings should have been used in this way. Until we have a complete evaluation of the D&T report, we will have serious difficulty considering the Procurement Report. The Secretariat and the USG/DM should avail themselves to the 5th Comm to provide a clear and comprehensive presentation of the D&T report.

5 There are other issues related to Procurement that we need to address. Besides this report, there is also the ongoing OIOS investigations into alleged procurement transgressions. These investigations should also be completed as a matter of urgency. 8 staff who have not been formally charged remain in limbo. So there is the factor of due process and basic decency. But the outcome of the investigations will also influence our views on the procurement process. If this was all a wild goose chase, then we will also need to look into the reasons for that.

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