

STATEMENT BY MR. DOCTOR MASHABANE, THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON ITEM 134: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM: 2012-2013, AT THE MAIN SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman

Allow me to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, for his introduction of the proposed programmed for the biennium 2012-2013, on 27 October 2011. Also, I would like to thank the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budget Questions (ACABQ), Mr. Collen Kelapile for report as well.

I would like to congratulate you upon your election as Chairman of the Fifth Committee.

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Representative of Argentina and Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the G77+China and the African Group respectively.

South Africa takes floor to add its voice on some of the issues that have already been highlighted by the Chairs of G77+China and Africa Group – in particular the issue of the Special Advisor on Africa. In its previous resolutions, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to fill vacancies expeditiously in accordance with the provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations.

As you may be aware Mr. Chairman, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has now been streamlined into six priority areas – by the African Union. It is therefore important for the United Nations to align its programmes and adopt implementable programmes that would take into account the priorities of the continent.

We call on the Secretary-General to abide by the mandates of the General Assembly and fill this important of the Special Advisor on Africa.

My delegation would like to remind the Secretary-General that the members of this Organisation have in no uncertain terms rejected his proposal to abolish or merge this post. We therefore, strongly urge the Secretary-General to heed the call by member states and act in the best interest of Africa.

My delegation stands ready, with the Africa Group to assist the Secretary-General to implement this important decision of the General Assembly.

~~Lastly~~, Mr. Chairman – my delegation would like to reiterate another point already made by the Africa Group, concerning the budget allocation in relation to the mandates of the Organisation. In this respect, my delegation lament the fact that over 90% of the budget is allocated to Peace and Security and Human rights at the expense of priorities related to Development mandate of the UN. We call upon the Secretary-General to develop a clear plan to be implemented to address these imbalances.

~~I thank you~~, Mr. Chairman

My delegation stands ready to engage constructively on any proposal that seek to improve the budget of the Organisation. The current financial crisis is rightly challenging the United Nations to re-examine its budget and to focus on achieving more with less.

South Africa is concerned about a proposed reduction of entry-level professionals post for the proposed budget for 2012-2013 and its impact on development related activities.