

**STATEMENT MADE ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY MR. BROUZ COFFI, COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
ON AGENDA ITEM 152: FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION STABILIZATION MISSION IN  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO FOR THE PERIOD  
1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012, IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE  
MAIN PART OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2011)**

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 152 entitled financing arrangements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for the period 1 July, 2011 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

2. African Group would like to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan for introducing the Secretary-General's report on this agenda item contained in document A/66/375. The Group would also like to thank Mr. Alejandro Lepori, Vice-Chairman of the ACABQ, for introducing the Committee's related report contained in document A/66/545.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The African Group recalls that, Security Council resolution 1991(2011) extended the mandate of MONUSCO until 30 June, 2012 and decided, inter alia that the Mission shall support the organization and conduct of national, provincial and local elections through the provision of the technical and logistical support, as requested by the Congolese authorities.

4. The Group recalls that, resources for support of the elections were not included in the Secretary-General's budget proposal for 1 July, 2011 to 30 June, 2011, pending finalization of detailed planning. The Group notes that that Mission intended to support the national elections for 2011/2012 through air and road transport of electoral personnel and material within the existing resources, to the extent possible and that should significant additional resources be required, the Secretary-General would submit budget proposal to the Assembly for its consideration in accordance with the established procedures.

5. The Group further recalls that by resolution 65/296, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of USD 1.42 billion for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. Pending finalization of detailed planning for the conduct of elections, the appropriated resources did not include full requirements for the logistical support of elections.

6. The Group welcomes and support the Secretary-General proposal amounted to USD 74.6 million for the logistical support for two elections scheduled at the end of this month of November, 2011 and March,

2012. The Group is concerned that the proposal is presented just few days before the election and will request additional information on how MONUSCO will be able to support the Presidential and National Assembly elections of 28 November 2011.

7. The African Group attaches great importance on the election process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as one of the necessary means to improve political stability in the country and facilitate lasting peace to the people of Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region as a whole.

We would also like to emphasize on the need to ensure that all necessary support is provided for these elections in full and on time as per the mandate given to the Mission.

Mr. Chairman,

8. In conclusion, the African Group would like to commend men and women in uniform and civilian who are dedicating their effort and lives in finding the everlasting peace to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The African Group would finally like to assure you our readiness to participate in constructive deliberations on this agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.