
**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
162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE SUDAN, AND AGENDA
ITEM 147: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERIM SECURITY FORCE FOR
ABYEI, IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF
THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 2nd of December, 2011)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), which relates to the revised budget of this Mission for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, (UNISFA) for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

2. The African Group would like to thank the Controller, Ms Maria Eugenia Casar, for introducing Secretary-General's report on those two agenda items contained in documents A/66/519 and A/66/526. The Group would also like to thank the Vice-Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Alejandro Lepori, for introducing the Advisory Committee's related reports contained in documents A/66/575 and A/66/576 respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. With regard to UNMIS, the African Group recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 65/257 B, decided to appropriate to the Special Account for UNMIS the amount of \$482,460,550 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2011. In the same resolution, in paragraph 14, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to draw upon the resources approved for UNMIS in entering into commitments for the

period from 1 July to 31 December 2011 and for any further missions established by the Security Council before 31 December 2011.

4. The African Group recalls that the Security Council, in its resolutions 1990 (2011) of 27 June 2011 and 1996 (2011) of 8 July 2011, decided to establish UNISFA and UNMISS, respectively. Accordingly, pursuant to authorization granted by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/257 B on the financing of UNMIS, commitment authorities were provided for the deployment of UNMISS and UNISFA in the amount of \$277,915,150 and \$93,452,600, respectively, with the balance of appropriation in the amount of \$111,092,800 utilized for the withdrawal of UNMIS. Of the amount of \$482,460,550 assessed by the Assembly upon Member States in resolution 65/257 B, the amount of \$137,532,000 is to be applied to the Special Account for UNMIS to accomplish withdrawal and administrative liquidation of the Mission, the amount of \$277,915,150 is to be applied to the Special Account for UNMISS, and the balance, in the amount of \$67,013,400, is to be applied to the Special Account for UNISFA.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The African Group welcomes the proposal of the Secretary General in connection with the financing of UNMIS. The Group concurs with the ACABQ that, in its liquidation process, UNMIS should continue to apply lessons learned from the closed peacekeeping operations, with particular attention being paid to the disposal of assets in order to mitigate risks. Moreover, all outstanding amounts and claims should be settled expeditiously.

Mr. Chairman,

7. As for United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), we are pleased to note that five months after the establishment of the Mission, more than two thirds of the authorized troops are on the ground and the Mission is in a position to perform its mandate. The Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations, with the active support of the two Sudanese parties, have done everything possible to ensure the timely deployment of the Mission, significantly more quickly than is usually the case. In the same vein, we are also pleased to note that preparations have been finalized to deploy the full component of the contingent before the beginning of 2012.

8. The Group is aware that the initial deployment of UNISFA took place despite numerous obstacles, including heavy rains, which washed away the land route between Kadugli and Abyei, halting all road movements and severely restricting the induction of UNISFA personnel. Now with the onset of the dry season, road conditions have significantly improved, enhancing UNISFA's visibility and security presence.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We are aware that UNISFA is implementing its mandate in a very complex and demanding environment, in addition to dangerous circumstances that led to the death of four United Nations Peacekeeping Forces on August 2nd when their vehicle struck a land mine.

10. The African Group is mindful of the necessity of providing adequate resources to UNISFA to ensure that the mission effectively implements its mandates. The Group has noted that the ACABQ has recommended reductions on the level of resources requested for the mission. During the course of our discussions, the Group expects that the Secretariat officials will have ample opportunity to expound on the proposals and provide additional information on some of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. We are fully determined to examine the proposals and the recommendations, with a view to ensuring that the committee recommends in favor of the provision of adequate resources for the mission as proposed by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Finally, the African Group would like to assure you of our readiness to participate in constructive deliberations on these two agenda items.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.