



STATEMENT

by Mr. Brouz Ralph Enneric COFFI, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations, on agenda 148 Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and 159(a) Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force during the main part of the sixty-eight session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly
(New York, 2 December, 2013)

Mr. Chairman,

1- I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 148 and 159(a) related to Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force respectively.

2- The African Group wishes to thank the Assistant Secretary General and Controller, Mrs. Eugenia Casar, for introducing the Secretary General's reports on the revised estimates for UNISFA and UNDOF for the financial year 2013/2014. We would also like to thank the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Carlos Ruis Massieu, for introducing the related reports.

Mr. Chairman,

3- The African Group would like to take this opportunity to re-affirms its commitment in supporting the peacekeeping efforts undertaken worldwide by the United Nations and those undertaken by African Union. We would like to pay our special tribute to men and women in uniform and civilian staff who pay ultimate sacrifice in serving for humanity under difficult, harsh, dangerous and complex environment.

4- We are witnessing with extreme concern a new trend of attacks against the United Nations peacekeepers. Less than six months before the Assembly approve the budgets for peacekeeping missions, we have seen attacks to UN peacekeepers, including those in UNAMID and MONUSCO, which have resulted in loss of lives. The African Group continues to remember those who lost their lives in serving for humanity and peace on earth.

Mr. Chairman,

5- The African Group has taken note of the Secretary General's proposals on revised estimates for UNISFA in the amount of US \$339.3 million as well as for UNDOF in the amount of US \$ 60.8 million. The Group has also taken note of the Advisory Committee's comments, observations and recommendations in this regard.

6- The Group will carefully examine the Secretary General proposal and the Advisory Committee's recommendations with the aim to ensure that the Missions are allocated adequate resources necessary to effectively deliver their given mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

7- In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the African Group's readiness and willingness to constructively engage in negotiations on each of the individual peace missions' revised budget proposals in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, with the aim of reaching positive outcome as quickly as possible.

I thank you.