



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. BROUZ COFFI,
MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
COTE D'IVOIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 158:
FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED
STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI AT THE MAIN PART OF SIXTY-EIGHT
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 16th December 2013)

Mr. Chairman,

1- I have the honor to speak on agenda item 158 Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

2- The Group would like to thank the Assistant Secretary General, the Controller Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Chairperson of the ACABQ for introducing the respective reports under this agenda item.

3- The African Group attaches great importance to the United Nations peacekeeping operations. We would also like to pay a special tribute to men and women who have sacrificed their lives in serving for humanity and peace on earth and those contributing to the reinforcement of peace and security worldwide, while serving under difficult, harsh, dangerous and complex environment.

4- In our last statement during the introduction of UNISFA and UNDOF, the African Group expressed extreme concern on a new trend of attacks against the United Nations peacekeepers. These concerns have increased as, just this weekend, two Senegalese peacekeepers were killed in a car bomb blast in the northeast Malian town of Kidal. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the two peacekeepers who lost their lives, and our sincere wishes for full and speedy recovery of those injured.

5- The African Group also notes with even more concern that this bomb attack occurred on the eve of the second round of the legislative election in Mali, election which is the second step in the process of restoring democracy in Mali; the third step being the local election to be held in 2014. For their commitment to actively contributing to this restoration process, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Mr. Chairman,

6- The African Group recalls that, by its resolution 67/286, the Assembly authorized the commitment authority in the amount not exceeding US\$ 84 million, for the period from April to June 2013. The Group has taken note that about 98 % of the Commitment authority has been spent for the same period.

7- The Group also recalls that by the same resolution, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary General to enter into Commitment Authority in the amount not exceeding US\$ 367 million for the period from July to December, 2013. We also note that a total amount of US\$ 402 million has been assessed with outstanding contribution in the amount of US\$ 130 million. We have further taken note of the information on the outstanding settlement by the Mission.

Mr. Chairman,

8- The Group has taken note of the mandate of the Mission, as outlined in Security Council resolution 2100 (2013). The Group recalls that by its resolution 67/286, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to consider preparing the budget for the Mission on the basis of the standardized funding model, taking into account lessons learned. We will be interested to learn in detail the implementation of this provision on deriving the elements of budget proposal. We will also like to learn to what extent the revised model meets requirement and address challenges of start-up of the Mission. The Group will further be interested to receive detailed comments and observation of the ACABQ on this matter, as connected to Mission budget proposal.

Mr. Chairman,

9- The Group attaches greatest importance in providing the adequate resources to the peacekeeping mission to enable them to effectively deliver their respective mandates. In this regards, the Group will carefully scrutinize the ACABQ's proposed budget reductions in order to avoid any adverse impact on MINUSMA's operations which are, currently, in a critical phase as stated by the Secretary General in his report.

10- taking into account all the concerns raised in the present statement, the African Group supports the Secretary General's budget proposal for MINUSMA for the period of 2013/2014 in the amount of US\$ 616 million.

11- In conclusion, the Group will like to assure you of our continued readiness to engage in constructive deliberations so as to conclude the item in a timely manner.

I thank you.