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STATEMENT

On behalf of the African Group by Amb. Beatrice Pacunega Manano, of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations, on the Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations during the second part of the resumed sixty-eight session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly

(New York, 7 May, 2014)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The African Group wishes to thank Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar Assistant Secretary General/Controller for introducing various reports of the Secretary General on the performance and proposed budgets for the various peacekeeping missions.

We would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing the related reports.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group would like to take this opportunity to salute all uniformed and civilian personnel who are working in difficult, hostile, dangerous and sometimes complex environment under the flag of

the United Nations . We pay special tribute to those who lost their lives in service for humanity and peace around the world.

We strongly believe that, among many other factors, the allocation of adequate resources is a key element necessary to ensure that peace keeping missions deliver their given mandate in full and on time. In this regard, the Group would like to reiterate that the lessons learnt, from previous field trips undertaken by the fifth committee including the one in February this year, demonstrates that the missions deserve full support of member states in order for them to effectively implement their mandates instead of the arbitrary budget cuts which we are witnessing and which will have negative impacts on their operations.

The Group would like to underscore the importance of complying with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions regarding cross-borrowing of funds from other active peacekeeping missions and in this regard , the Group has concerns about the new form of cross-borrowing between active peacekeeping missions in the context of inter-mission cooperation and cautions against any attempt to consider peacekeeping budgets as a compact.

The Group would like to reaffirm that the budget of each peacekeeping mission is approved on stand -alone basis taking into account its specific mandates and the unique circumstances on the ground. The Group will carefully examine this issue and its application in a number of missions including the UN Mission in South Sudan.

Mr.Chairman,

Based on the analysis of the proposed budgets for the period from 1 July, 2014 to 30 June, 2015, the African Group witnessed a substantive reduction of about US\$ 404 million or 5.2% as compared to the overall budget level adopted last year, this, despite the same or even expanded mandate of the peace missions and in spite of the increased challenges and complexity of the operational circumstances on the ground.

The Group would thus like to stress that, the consideration of the peacekeeping budgets should not be taken as a cost saving exercise but rather a mandate implementation resource allocation driven exercise.

The Group is concerned that unjustified cost reductions or across the

board cuts may have a negative impact in terms of mission operations and may endanger missions mandate implementation.

We will therefore, carefully scrutinize the budget proposals before us and will seek for specific details on each peace missions' proposed budget during our informal deliberations.

The African Group will also examine the performance of the Missions including issues related to timely disbursement of funds, Changes introduced in some Missions , as well as implementation of key elements such as Quick Impact Projects , which the group believes is a vital component of peacekeeping mission activity in terms of creating impact and visibility.

Our group would also pay attention to some emerging issues in peacekeeping missions where some UN officials are taking arbitrary decisions such as cancellation of flights, delay in funds disbursement and budget reduction by completely disregarding the given mandates of the intergovernmental bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

In the same vein, the African Group is also looking forward to examining the proposed budget for the new United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African (MINUSCA) to be presented during this session.

The consideration of the budget proposal for this brand new mission forms a major part of our interest in this session. It is therefore our expectation that adequate resources and logistical support will be provided to this mission in a timely manner to enable it to deliver the given mandate, especially at its start-up phase. Therefore, the Group expects that the related reports of MINUSCA will be made available to Member States with due diligence and in ample time.

We strongly believe that the Secretariat Officials should play their roles in facilitating the Committee deliberations in terms of providing accurate information in a consistent manner during the informal sessions.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to reiterate the African Group's readiness and willingness to constructively engage in negotiations on each of the Peace keeping Missions' budget proposals in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, with the aim of reaching positive outcome within the allocated time frame.

I thank you