

STATEMENT

on behalf of the African Group by Amb. Beatrice Pacunega, at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations, on the Organization of Work, at the second resumed part of the sixty-eight session the General Assembly - Fifth Committee

(New York, 5 May 2014)

Mr. Chairman,

1- I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on the organization of the work during the second resumed part of the sixty-eight session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

2- At the outset, the African Group would like to thank you for your continued dedication in steering our work in particular the timely conclusion of the work of the first resumed session; a good record for the Committee.

3- Mr. Chairman, allow me to join those who spoke before me, to extend, our deepest condolences to the family of our dear colleague Alan Shaw, to the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom, to the United Nations and the European Union, upon the untimely death of Alan. Mr. Chairman, Alan was a major player in 5th Committee's deliberations; he will be solely missed by the Africa Group and the 5th Committee in general. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr. Chairman

4- The Group also wishes to thank Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Ms. Ameerah Haq, Under Secretary General for Field Support and Ms Maria-Eugenia Casar, Assistant Secretary General/Controller for their respective presentation before the Committee this morning. Our Group also wishes to extend its thanks to the chair and other members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for their ongoing dedication to facilitate the work of the Fifth Committee.

5- The African Group aligns itself with statement just delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to make few additional comments;

Mr. Chairman,

6- With regard to the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee for the second resumed part of the sixty-eight session, the African Group would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the Programme of work and welcomes the designation of the facilitators of all the various agenda items that are to be considered during this session. We would also like to support the programme on the understanding that it will be adjusted taking into account the progress of our negotiations and deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

7- The second resumed session is dedicated to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in order to ensure that these operations fulfill their mandates.

8- The consideration of the administrative and financing aspects of the PKOs forms a major part of our Group's interests. In this regard we will carefully examine all proposals before us to ensure the missions are provided with adequate resources to deliver their given mandates.

9- The recent field trip undertaken by the fifth committee in February this year gave us an opportunity to realize that the peacekeeping missions are operating in a harsh environment and coping with many challenges. The lessons learnt from the field trip demonstrates that the missions deserve the full support of member states in order for them to effectively implement their mandates instead of arbitrary budget cuts which will affect their operations negatively.

10- In this regard, in the light of the performance reports and budget proposals for peacekeeping budgets before the Committee, the Group would like to reaffirm its position that each of the proposed budgets should be duly considered, taking into account the specific mandates and the unique circumstances on the ground of each single peacekeeping mission. The idea of generalization and package style of deliberation will not receive the African group support.

Mr. Chairman,

11- In this session, the African Group will take keen interest in looking carefully at the performance and proposals for all the active peacekeeping operations, UN Support to the AU Mission and performance of the Regional Service center in Entebbe, Uganda. The Group will also follow closely the issues outlined in the Board of Auditors reports including but not limited to those related to budget formulation and implementation, IPSAS implementations, Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) and follow-up on implementations of a number of the Board's previous

recommendations. The implementation of resolution 67/261 on rates of reimbursement for TCC, report on the Contingent Owned Equipment and financing of Special Political Mission are also on our top priority in this session.

12- With regard to the implementation of resolution 67/261 on rates of reimbursement for TCC, we would like to recall that the argument of the balanced approach of recommendations contained in the SAG report was used last year to impose penalties on the TCC for absent or non-functional major equipment.

13- Therefore, the time has come to be fair towards the TCC by approving a new rate of personnel reimbursement based on the outcomes of the revised survey methodology recommended by SAG with view to matching the rate with actual costs incurred by the TCC and also keeping in mind the enormous sacrifices made by them in deploying troops to peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

14 - The African Group is aware of the fact that this session carries a heavy workload for the Committee. But we strongly believe that, hard work, dedication, frankness and transparency in our deliberations will facilitate the timely conclusion of our work. The Group would like to discourage the negotiations under small configurations in the closed doors. We would further like to stress that the Committee needs to stick to the approved official timeline as outlined in the Programme of Work.

15- In conclusion, the African Group wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively with other delegations, in an open, inclusive and transparent manner with a view to achieving a positive outcome on all agenda items.

I thank you.