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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. KODJOVI DOSSEH OF PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE FINANCING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS DURING THE
SECOND RESUMED PART OF SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 12th May, 2015)**

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. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, the Controller for introducing various reports of the Secretary-General today and last week on the performance and proposed budgets for various peacekeeping missions. We would also like to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for introducing the related reports.

As we are approaching the seventieth anniversary of the Organization, the African Group would like to take this opportunity to salute all uniformed and civilian personnel who have dedicated their lives to serve the United Nations under difficult, harsh, dangerous and complex environments. We pay special tribute to those who lost their lives in servicing the United Nations for humanity and peace on earth.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the performance budgets of the Missions, the African Group has taken note of the related information for the year 2013/2014 as well as updates for the projected expenditure for the current financial year. The Group has also taken note of the overall financial performance at the rate of 96% for financial year 2013/2014 for the 13 active PKOs, UNSOA and UNLB to which were allocated a total of US\$ 7.84 billion.

The Group has further taken note that for the current period, there is projected expenditure in the amount of US\$ 8.49 billion which is higher than the allocated resources in the amount of US\$ 8.46 billion.

The Group will be interested to learn in details a number of key elements of the budget implementation, in particular those related to the facilities and infrastructure including accommodations, recruitments and human resources management issues as well as other mission support elements during informal deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the proposal for the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the African Group has taken note of proposed resources for each of the individual missions which aggregate in the amount of US\$ 8.5 billion representing an increase of 0.4% from the resources approved for the current year.

The Group would like to reiterate the great importance it attaches to the allocation of the adequate resources to each of individual peacekeeping operations in general and specifically those located in Africa taking into account the complexity of their respective mandate, the unique circumstances justifying these mandates and the magnitude of the challenges of the operations in the field. The Group continues to be of the strong view that, among many other factors, allocation of the adequate resources is critical to ensuring that peacekeeping operations deliver on their mandate in an efficient, effective and timely manner.

Mr. Chairman,

Based on the analysis of the proposed budgets for the period of 2015/2016, the African Group, while acknowledging a small increase of the overall level by 0.4%, the Group remain concerned on a number of proposed reductions across the individual PKOs despite the expansion of their mandate and/or the increase of the challenges in conjunction with the 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 simple costs reduction exercise but rather a responsible mandate implementation-resource allocation driven exercise.

It is regrettable that unjustified costs reduction and across the board cuts continue to be presented to Member States, and this Group believes that this approach continues to have a negative impact in terms of mission operations delivery and may endanger Missions mandate implementation. Our Group will thus scrutinize each of the budgets performance and proposal before the Committee during our informal deliberations.

The Group will also follow closely a number of cross cutting issues directly linked to the successful implementation of the Missions mandate, including those related to Mission support, *Umoja* implementation, Global Field Support Strategy, facilities and infrastructure, oversight and ethical matters.

Furthermore, our Group will also be interested to learn the details of the issues related to sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular accountability elements and protection of whistleblowers in the missions including the 'question of the Central African Republic', which was recently mentioned in the media. The Group requests through you, **Mr. Chairman**, that the Chef de Cabinet find time to explain to the Committee some of our "unanswered questions on this matter" which involves the senior managers in this Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the African Group reiterates its longstanding position that the work of this Committee should be conducted in an open, transparent and all inclusive manner. The Group therefore wishes to reassure you of its readiness to engage constructively with other delegations, with a view to achieving a positive outcome on all agenda items.

I thank you, **Mr. Chairman**.