

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. ABDELHAKIM MIHOUBI, COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK, AT THE SECOND RESUMED
PART OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE**

(New York, 4 May 2015)

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee during the second resumed part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The African Group would like to thank you and the Fifth Committee Bureau Members for your tireless efforts in order to bring to a conclusion the work of the first resumed session of the 69th Session of the Fifth Committee. We encourage the same effort will be spared to ensure the Committee finalized its work in a given time.

The Group would also like to welcome Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary General, the Controller and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the ACABQ to the meeting today.

The African Group commend men and women who dedicated their lives in the services of the United Nations peacekeeping. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during their terms of duty.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to make the following additional comments.

With regard to the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee for the second resumed part of the sixty-ninth 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. It is our expectation that the programme of work will be adjusted from time to time in line with the progress in the negotiations and the availability of documents.

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 given mandates.

The Group notes that the Fifth Committee during the second resumed session is expected to deal with at least 90 documents and at least 20 agenda items, with the majority of documents not ready on time and not translated into all the official languages of the United Nations .It is therefore regrettable that we once again have to register our concern of the late submission of large number of reports by the Secretariat.

With regard to the proposals for peacekeeping budgets before the Committee, the Group is of the strong views that these proposed budgets should be duly considered, taking into account the specific mandate and the unique circumstances on the ground of each single peacekeeping mission.

The Group would like also to recalls that General Assembly has repeatedly indicated that the budget proposal of United Nations peacekeeping operations must be based on existing mandates of the Security Council in the time of the preparation of the budget document. In that regard, the Group emphasizes on the importance of providing all PKOs with twelve month budget and full assessment in line with given mandate, and therefore we will not subscribe to any approach to prejudice the mandate of any of the operation.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group would like to appreciate efforts of the Department of Field Support (DFS) and Peacekeeping Operation (DPKO) related to facilitation of the Fifth Committee field trip conducted in February this year. The visit enabled our group to note that peacekeeping missions are facing many challenges, particularly in the area of improving the security and safety of troops and civilian personnel, facilities and infrastructure including accommodations, logistical support as well as medical structures and support. It is in this background that our findings from the field mission visit that, African Group will be careful scrutinizing the budgetary proposals to ensure that, issues observed in the ground are addressed in a timely manner.

In this session, the African Group will also take keen interest in looking carefully at the performance and proposals for all the closed and active peacekeeping operations, UN Support to the AU Mission in Somalia and performance of the Regional Service Center in Entebbe, Uganda as well as proposed budget for special political missions. The Group will also follow closely the issues outlined in the Board of Auditors report including but not limited to those related to budget formulation and implementation, procurement, asset management as well as implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS).

Mr. Chairman,

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 negotiation under small configurations in the closed doors. We would further like to stress that the Committee need to stick to the approved official timing as outlined in the programme of work.

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 assure 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