



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
BY MS. LOURDES PEREIRA SOTOMAYOR, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, ON THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER IN ENTEBBE, AT THE SECOND
RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 3 May 2017)**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the G77 and China on the Regional Service Center Entebbe during the second resumed part of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.
2. At the outset, the Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary General, Controller, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee, for introducing the respective reports of the Secretary-General and the ACABQ.

Madam Chair,

3. The Group recalls that the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe was established in July 2010, following the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 64/269, as a shared service center for missions in the region under the global field support strategy.
4. The Assembly, in paragraph 62 of its resolution 69/307, decided to give the Centre operational and managerial independence and requested the Secretary-General to submit a budget proposal which the committee will consider in this period.
5. As stated in the third annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the global field support strategy (A/67/633), the RSCE was formed to create synergies and economies of scale to deliver better and more timely support and reduce or eliminate waste, duplication and bottlenecks in logistical, administrative and financial support services.
6. The Group so far welcomes the work done by the center in supporting 7 Peacekeeping Missions, 6 Special Political Missions and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU).
7. The Group welcomes the addition of MINURSO to the RSCE as well as other Peacekeeping Missions in the region.
8. The G-77 and China welcomes the proposed restructuring of the Regional Service Centre across cross-functional service lines to take full advantage of the functionalities of Umoja, and

looks forward to learning about the advantages this would provide in supporting Peacekeeping Missions in the region.

9. The Group looks forward to hearing from the Secretariat regarding the proposed staffing structure, which also involves reassignment of posts during the informal meeting.

Madame Chair

10. Taking note that over 60% of the Peacekeeping Missions in the world are in Africa, it is important for the Missions to receive support from a hub that is within the same time zone.

11. In the same way, taking into account the number of missions on the African continent and the number of civilian personnel in the Peacekeeping Missions, it is very important that trainings are also done in the region. We therefore welcome the services provided by the Regional Training and Conference Centre for providing a hub for a wide variety of meetings and events for United Nations field missions in the region, for staff from United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations entities, the Regional Training and Conference Centre should be managed under the administration of the Regional Service Centre.

12. The Group also takes note of the low cost implications of hosting a support center for Missions in Africa and encourages the Secretariat to fully take advantage of this at a time when we are asking it to do more with less.

13. The Group takes note of the importance of the governance structure of the Regional Service Center in Entebbe in ensuring the smooth functioning of its work and will be interested in understanding the roles of both the board and Steering Committee especially because the center was granted managerial independence.

Madam Chair,

14. The Group will also follow closely the support component for all Peacekeeping Missions to ensure maximum efficiencies and accountability especially for the administrative and back office functions.

15. In conclusion, the Group wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively on this agenda item.

I thank you, Madam Chair.