

STATEMENT BY AMB. KINTU NYAGO, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA 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. This being the first time my delegation takes the floor during your term as Chair, allow me to congratulate you upon chairing this very important committee and to reaffirm my delegation's confidence in the work that you are personally doing. I also thank the Bureau and 5th committee secretariat for their dedication and hard work.

2. My delegation also acknowledges the presence of Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary General, Controller, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee, in our meeting today.

The Republic of Uganda associates itself with the statements made by the Group of 77 and China and would like to add a few observations.

Madam Chair,

3. My delegation recalls that the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe was established in July 2010, as a shared service center for missions in the region under the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) and by resolution [69/307](#), the center was granted operational and managerial independence.

4. Allow me to recall the principles on which the GFSS was based;

- i) That the Secretariat would continue to provide strategic direction, exercise oversight and take policy decisions, but get out of the business of operational and transactional service delivery.
- ii) That the Global and regional Service centers would take over the majority of the operational and transactional functions.
- iii) The Mission support component of the field operations would thereby be reduced, with only location dependent activities performed in specific mission locations.

5. The report of the Secretary General ([A/67/633](#)), also reaffirms that 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.

4. We believe that the General Assembly is still interested in following up on the same principles it endorsed in 2010 especially at a time when the financial situation in most countries dictates that we are ask the Secretariat to do more with less.

Madame Chair,

It is with this understanding that my delegation will seek information about the role of the proposed governance structures at the Regional Service Center Entebbe in light of the managerial independence of the center that was endorsed by the General Assembly.

My delegation remains supportive of the Secretary General's proposals regarding the nationalization plans at the RSCE.

5. My Delegation also views the Global Service Delivery Model as a concept that shares similar principles with those coined under the Global Field Support Strategy and looks forward to the outcome of the project team's work which will among other issues provide the cost- benefit analysis of the location of the service centers.

Madam Chair,

10. As noted in the statement made by the Representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China over 60% of the Peacekeeping Missions in the world are in Africa.

We therefore support the idea of having a Regional Training and Conference Centre, in addition to other facilities, to provide 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.

12. We also invite the General Assembly to consider the low cost of living and the family friendly environment, which Uganda has to offer and which will go along way in facilitating the work of the men and women involved in Peacekeeping.

Madam Chair

6. My delegation also commends the cooperation that exists between the leadership of the United Nations Secretariat and the Government of Uganda and pledges its continued support to all United Nations programs in Uganda and the Region.

7. The Government of the Republic of Uganda will remain engaged on the various Peace and Security Initiatives in the Region and at the International Level because the principle of good neighborliness remains a core principle to our people.

Madam Chair,

15. As I conclude allow me to share the words of Sir Winston Church Hill, the Secretary for British Colonies, from his journal in 1908, as he reported back about his African Journey.

“ My counsel plainly is concentrate on Uganda! Nowhere else in Africa does a little money go so far, nowhere else will the results be more brilliant, more substantial or rapidly realized”.

My delegation wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively on this agenda item.

I thank you, Madam Chair.