

Check Against Delivery

**Statement**

**By**

**H.E. Ambassador Mahlet Hailu, Deputy Permanent  
Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
to the United Nations**

**At**

**The 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly, Second Resume  
Session of the Fifth Committee Meeting on Agenda Item 150,  
*Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei  
(UNISFA) and United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS)***

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**New York**

**Madam Chairperson,**

Since we are taking the floor for the first time during the Second Resume Session of the Fifth Committee deliberations, I wish to express our appreciation for your remarkable leadership of the Committee. Let me also thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary General, the Controller and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the ACABQ, for their respective presentations this morning, on Financing the PKOs.

As is known, Ethiopia has a long history of active contribution in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, and its exits were always commended for positive track records. Among our experiences so far, UNISFA stands very tall, because of the underlying responsibility which has been exceptionally heavy. The Mission is peculiar, as it won the trust of the two sisterly neighbouring countries, Sudan and South Sudan. This Mission does not only help blocking a situation of dangerously looming war, but it also made possible that the two countries transited from brink of deadly conflict to a spirit of sustainable cooperation.

We wish to underline that, the success of the Mission was not possible without heroic sacrifices of our Armed Forces, and the resilience of the mechanisms implemented to address several risk factors. It would be, therefore, only fair if all the required financial and material resources for the budget year 2017-18 are availed by the United Nations, after rationalizing each item. In this connection, we are going to enquire at the informal consultation, why resources requested by the Secretary General are downsized by an amount of

USD 3.6184 million in the recommendation of the ACABQ. Ethiopia strongly believes in maximizing resource utilization, aimed at achieving goals at highest efficiency. However, overemphasis on resource saving should not impede PKO's mandate delivery. The risk of undermining hard won gains, must be avoided, because of the losses in lives behind the process of advancing agreed mandates.

In the case of facilities and infrastructure for UNISFA as well as the civilian personnel redeployment, it is expected that both will enable the Mission to improve on the reported difficulty in the living conditions of camps. The infrastructure work can also enhance cost effective mobility and uninterrupted critical service delivery.

**Madam Chairperson,**

We took note of the recommendation of the ACABQ, on the need that cash balance of the Mission should improve and outstanding claims be settled with-in reasonable time frame, as the action will certainly help to ease burden on the TCC. It is also important to take into account that this Mission is mandated to help the Security Council, among other things, to achieve objectives of allowing returning of displaced people, protection of the civilian population and supporting the peaceful administration of the Abyei area. These responsibilities are, most demanding in their nature, and need strengthening civilian capacity.

The mandates and strategic priorities of the Mission necessitate working closely with the governments of Sudan and South Sudan, as well as the local communities in the areas of its operation. In this regard, despite some political deadlocks between the parties, my

country is proud to witness the weight of the interdependence and fraternity expressed by a general feeling of cordial cooperation. This asset needs building up, and the responsibility to that end largely lies on the international community. Maintaining the interrelated mandate components is very important, until the strategic review of UNISFA changes the situation. Implementation of elements of the 20 June 2011 agreement, between the two governments in their entirety, is the only guarantee to ensure grass-root reconciliation in the border area as highlighted in the Mission's mandate. That needs support.

Concerning the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), some of the ideals of blanket budget cut doesn't take into account resources needed for life support activities. We believe that is dangerous, and has to be reconsidered seriously during the informal negotiations. In this respect, the proposal by the Secretary General has tried to reflect the gravity of the logistical and supply challenges in Somalia, and it merits full support. We hope, the Committee will not allow unnecessary ambition for resources saving, especially at the expense of compromising life and general security of the Mission.

We would like to conclude, Madam Chairperson, by calling for the unity of purpose in the Committee, to agree on justifiable and appropriate financial resources allocation, which can support implementation of respective mandates of the missions under consideration.

I thank you,