

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MRS CAROLINE
NALWANGA MAGAMBO, FIRST SECRETARY PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OF ON THE FINANCING OF
UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS DURING THE SECOND
RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY - FIFTH COMMITTEE**

(New York, 3 May 2017)

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on the financing of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) as well as the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS).

The African Group wishes to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller for introducing the various reports of the Secretary-General. We also wish to extend our appreciation to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the related reports.

We wish to indicate that our group will make one statement for all PKOs as a measure to keep up with our commitment to save time.

Madam Chair,

With regard to the financing of peacekeeping operations, the African Group takes note of the present report, which provides an overview of the financial and administrative aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It provides consolidated information on the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 with total expenditure

amounting to \$8,017.4 million against an approved budget of \$8,296.6 million, exclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind.

The Group also notes that the financial resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 are an estimated \$7,971.6 million compared with the approved level of \$7,888.9 million for the 2016/17 periods, which represents a net increase of \$82.7 million or 1%. In this regard the group looks forward to consideration of the budgets for each mission.

Madam chair

With regard to gender Main streamlining, the African Group also recalls General Assembly resolution 70/286, by which the Secretary-General is requested to report on measures taken to expand the participation of women in peacekeeping operations.

The Group awaits the comprehensive evaluation on accountability for the integration of gender into mission mandate delivery and strengthened strategic and technical support to all substantive components that is scheduled to be finalized in 2017.

Madame Chair

The General Assembly in its resolution 61/276, noted QIPS as playing a critical role in strengthening the link between missions and local populations and in its most recent resolution on cross-cutting issues (70/286), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to enhance the impact of these projects while addressing underlying challenges.

The Group notes that \$18 million is proposed for implementation of such projects in 2017/18 across nine peacekeeping missions, as compared to \$20 million for the 2016/17 period with the difference being attributable to the closing of UNOCI. The Group requests a clear distinction between QIPS and programmatic activities and also requests Secretariat to revisit the budget ceiling placed on QIPs.

Madme chair

On the issue of Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE), the Group takes note of the 2017 triennial meeting of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment that was held from 16 to 27 January 2017. The African Group therefore looks forward to discussion of this agenda Item in the informal session.

The group also feels that it is also necessary that concerns of the TCCs/PCCs are properly addressed in terms of reducing burdens resulted from delays of reimbursement for Contingent Owned Equipment.

Madam Chair,

The United Nations currently supports 17 active peacekeeping operations: 14 peacekeeping missions funded under individual special accounts; 2 peacekeeping missions, UNMOGIP and UNTSO, which were established long ago under the programme budget; and UNSOS, the logistical support operation in Somalia. The Security Council mandated the withdrawal of UNOCI by the end of April 2017 (resolution 2284 (2016)) and the withdrawal of UNMIL by 30 April 2018 (resolution 2333 (2016)).

The Group notes the reduction in the proposed resource requirements for the 2017/18 period is due to the closing of UNOCI and the withdrawal of UNMIL and the reconfiguration and streamlining of operations in UNAMID, MINUSTAH and MONUSCO.

With regard to MINUSTAH, the Group notes the lack of clarity on the process of drawing down of the Mission by 15 October 2017 and the transition to MINUJUSTH. The Group trusts that further clarity will be provided during the informal consultations, and that all relevant budgetary rules and procedures will be followed in order for an orderly and responsible transition that does not impact negatively on the effective implementation of the mandates on the ground.

Madam Chair,

The Group welcomes the progress made in deepening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, in particular the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in April 2017. We look forward to the report later this month on planning, mandating and financing of African Union peace support operations in line with Security Council resolution 2320 (2016). The African Group reiterates that the use of United Nations assessed contributions provides the most reliable, sustainable and predictable avenue of support for Security Council mandated African Union peace operations.

With regard to MONUSCO, the Group welcomes the successful implementation of the 31 December 2016 agreement and notes the request for a strategic review of MONUSCO expected by 30 September 2017. The Group trusts that any recommendations to reduce

the Force and civilian components will be assessed against the effective implementation of the mandate, and conducted in dialogue with the host government and other stakeholders.

Madam Chair,

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 with other delegations in a constructive manner.

I thank you, Madam Chair.