

Statement by Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, DPR of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Chad to the United Nations, during the closing session of the second part of the resumed Seventy-first session of the Fifth committee of the United Nations General Assembly

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group during the closing session of our second resumed session of the 5th Committee.
2. First of all, allow me to commend your efforts and your positive presence during the negotiations, encouraging delegations to come up with constructive ideas for the sake of compromise.
3. I also want to thank your bureau members who positively and tirelessly contributed to the process.
4. Special thanks also to all the facilitators and those who survived towards the end, Diana Lee from Singapore for the Support account, Carlos Alejandro Funes Henriquez from El Salvador for the overall Budget, and Julie O'Brien from Ireland for the crosscutting (who managed to rescue the SEA and COE).
5. We thank also Mr. Carlos Rui Masieu, the Chairperson of the Advisory committee and his team for the hard work and dedication facilitating our deliberations, even if this year recommendations were a little difficult for some of us.
6. We also want to recognize the efforts of our partners for this outcome and encourages them to prioritize the importance of the mandate implementation above all other considerations.
7. Allow me also to convey my Group thanks to the entire Secretariat represented today by Mr. Atul Khare, the USG of DFS, Ms. Bettina Tucci Barstiotas, ASG, Controller, and in particular those who were always with us Ms. Maria Costa and Mr. Rick Martin, as well as those behind the scene (conference officers,

interpreters, translators, sound engineer), for the availability and support provided to the committee with technical clarifications and facilitated our deliberations.

8. Special thanks to the Committee Secretariat, Sharon Van Buerle and her team who faced double challenges supporting the committee and the CPC.

Madam Chair,

9. The agreement reached during the negotiation was achieved with a painful concession from our Group and others, in particular on the level of the budget, the African Group therefore expresses concerns about the tendency and the limited resources allocated for the peacekeeping operations whose primary objective is to support member states efforts for peace and stability and ensure protection of the civilians, in particular women and children who are more vulnerable.

10. If the tendency of doing more with less resources continues, soon enough we will end up with nothing for the mandate implementation, as well as without the human resource capacities which could be occasioned by the uncertainty year after year regarding their continued engagement.

11. The Group particularly believes that another approach need to be taken in the consideration of the support account, to at least find a way of preserving posts that are planned for continuation.

Madam Chair,

12. While we managed to secure the fundamentals of the budget, the African Group believes that substantial cuts across the line will put in high risk the mandate implementation and reduce the credibility of the United Nations. Therefore, we call upon all our partners to continue working in a constructive manner towards a consensual outcome, and at the expert's level to avoid a risky outcome.

13. The Group also underlines that the budgetary reduction is largely due to the fact that some missions, namely UNMIL, UNOCI, MINUSTAH will be successfully concluded, and the 6 month commitment authority decision for UNAMID adopted by the committee due to the predated mandate decision, will bring us to 6,8 billion budget for the peacekeeping budget for the period 2017/2018.

14. In this regards, the Group want to highlight that the decision of the committee to allocate a commitment authority of 6 months to UNAMID should be taken as a

onetime exception, without setting any future precedent. The Group will scrutinize any short falling in the main part of the seventy second session.

15. The Group particularly draw the attention of the member states that the budget allocated to MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNSOS with significant reduction, may be subject to additional requirement, if for example the deployment of troops will need to be factored in.

16. We underline also, based on the agreement reached, that any liabilities that may arise after the closing of UNOCI, will be covered by the Secretariat through existing mechanisms with the concurrence of the ACABQ.

17. The Group wishes also to highlight that this year ACABQ recommendations went beyond the usual practices, in particular on posts reassignment and redeployment, making their implementations challenging, and we are also of the view that a fair balance of all the regions in term of number of representatives in the ACABQ need to addressed in the upcoming session.

Madam Chair,

18. The Group underline, in particular, that we will face more challenges if the budget requirement predate mandate decisions and when the exit of the missions is too short. We hope that those two elements will be duly taken into account by the Security Council, to assist the committee delivering it mandate in a timely manner.

19. The Budget allocated by the Committee probably will constrain the Secretariat for certain activities, wherever possible, the Group believes that few options available, in line with applicable rules and regulations, can help mitigate the effects.

Madam Chair,

20. The Group expects also that all the recommendations of the board of auditors will be implemented by the secretariat, in a timely manner, and underlines for example that the civilian staffing review, is primarily not for the sake of realizing saving but for a better mandate implementation.

Other issues of particular importance, not reiterated from the previous resolutions were not substantially addressed due to time constrain, among them, the vehicle Policy, the appropriate level of Hospital, the Safety and security of the missions, the mine actions, the standard accommodation, the environmental footprint, the procurement from the local and regional market, the timely payment of the

TCC/PCC and so on. We hope that due attention will be given by the secretariat on these issues based on previous requests by the GA.

Madam Chair,

21. We sincerely believe that the UN Secretariat, and in particular the security council, need to take into account the commitments of the African Union toward significant contributions to peace and security on the African continent, and we expect that the partnership between the AU and the UN, in particular the UNSC and AUPSC will lead to a better cooperation and constructive engagement, in the context of the reform initiatives by the Secretary General.

22. Building on the best practices of partnership between the AU and the UN through UNSOS, UNAMID and others PKOs, the African Group underlines the need to continue supporting the efforts of the African Union and its sub regional institutions led initiatives, in prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding efforts, in particular the G5 Sahel forces, the Multinational joint task force against Boko Haram, the implementation of the regional standby brigades, the African quick intervention forces, as well as the bilateral border control mechanisms.

23. The Group underlines the important peace building efforts undertaken by the African Union, and expects for the sake of global peace and security that the international community investment in peacekeeping operations be focused on long-term results, this noble objective has to be balanced with the short-term resources allocation for peacekeeping.

24. We believe that this is the only way for the UN to operate in the increasing challenges, limited mandates that need to be strengthened, and the scarcity of resources.

Otherwise, if we are not careful, we will undermine the credibility of the UN with a significant price to be paid by member's states, including significant financial burden for the management of the consequences of potential instabilities of important number of countries and the protection of civilians.

Madam Chair,

25. We strongly urge individual members states and group of countries, to avoid any further approach in the future for significant cuts in the budget, the risk of non-

consensual outcome will be very high and the price to be paid for all us very serious, and instead, we recommend to all member states, to pay as soon as possible, their contributions in full, to avoid the accumulation of arrears, in order to avoid short falling of cash putting the secretariat in a difficult position if not impossible to deliver the mandate.

26. Before concluding, **Madam Chair**, allow me to pay tribute to the colleagues who will leave the committee for their substantial contribution to the work of the committee.

I also take this opportunity to thank my own Group for the substantial contribution, the sacrifices, and constructive approach, and welcomes also the upcoming Chair, H.E Mr. Michel Tommo Monthe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations and, who will guide the committee during the 72nd session as Chair of the Fifth committee.

I thank you