STATEMENT

On behalf of the African Group by Ambassador Beatrice K. Pacunega Manano, of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations, on Agenda item 134, Estimates in respect of Special Political Missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, in particular, The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM); during the second part of the resumed sixty eighth session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.


Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on Agenda item 134, estimates in respect of Special Political Missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, in particular, The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).

The Africa Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Officer in Charge, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts for presenting the Secretary General's report on this item, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing the related report.

Mr. Chairman,

The group would like to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat, particularly the Department of Field Support, for coordinating the Fifth Committee Field trip in February this year, in which Fifth Committee delegates visited Mogadishu, Somalia, among other places. This enabled
delegates to interact with the SRSG for UNSOM Mr. Nicholas Kay and his team on the ground, and see for themselves, the challenging environment in which UNSOM is operating. The delegates also interacted with the Special Representative of the African Union Commission Chairperson in Somalia Amb. Mahamat Saleh and learnt more about the challenges of AMISOM operations in Somalia.

Mr. Chairman,
The group continues to attach great importance to this Mission as part of finding a lasting solution to the situation in Somalia, and in this regard would like to acknowledge the huge sacrifices by the AMISOM forces, who have created the relative stable environment in which UNSOM can operate.

The group welcomes the Secretary General's additional proposed requirements for UNSOM for 2014 in the amount of US $22,156,200 million, to implement new Security Council mandates, including for the funding of the United Nations Guard Unit, which will form part of the overall security concept of UNSOM.

The Group will scrutinize all elements of the additional proposed requirements for UNSOM, as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in this regard, to ensure that the Assistance Mission has the all the needed resources to deliver its given mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the group would like to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively on this important agenda item.

I thank you