

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. KODJOVI DOSSEH OF PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 132 , PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015 , IN PARTICULAR, THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR EBOLA EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**New York , 3rd October, 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on agenda item 132, in particular the financing of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). The Group would like to thank the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee for presenting the related reports on this important item.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of Bolivia on Behalf of Group of 77 and China and we want to add the following comments.

Mr. Chairman,

Unfortunately public health issues only attract global attention when things get out of hand and once large numbers of people die. This is the first time in history that the UN has created a mission for a public health emergency. The Mission is expected to bring together and to facilitate the coordination of the vast resources of the UN agencies, funds and programmes, and other private actors to reinforce WHO's technical expertise and experience in control disease outbreaks.

Outbreak of Ebola disease in West Africa continue to threaten the life of neighboring countries as well as pose the risk of this disease spreading to neighboring countries and other parts of world. The African Group is concerned that statistics we have in hand might be far worse than reported, due to difficulties in monitoring and reporting. There's need to undertake swift, comprehensive and effective interventions to halt the spread of the disease and address the public health crisis.

In this regard, the African Group emphasizes the importance of a co-ordinated and urgent response by the international community to provide the three counties and the region with adequate means including financial assistance, equipment, protective clothing, mobile laboratories and other facilities in order to track and contain the disease and to ensure that neighboring countries and other regions have systems in place to prevent and trace infections.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group has taken note of the Secretary General proposal on the establishment of UNMEER in response to the General Assembly resolution 69/1. We commend the Secretary-General for immediate response to address the situation and to avoid further catastrophe.

The African Group full endorses the approval of commitment of authority in the amount of US\$ 49.9 million to provide an initial response to the situation. It is our understanding that the approval of the commitment of authority is in no way approving the structures outlined in the Secretary General's report. The current proposal has to be revised to ensure that the structure responds effectively to the situation in the ground by taking into account the core activities of the Mission.

Mr. Chairman,

The African would like to emphasize the need for Secretary General to submit the budget proposal on this item in a timely manner. It is our expectation that the revised proposal will ensure that resources are more directed to the substantive activities and not to support heavy top-administrative structure. Furthermore, the African Group expects that the revised proposal will take into consideration existing leadership structure available in UN entities in the region and in respective countries including in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

We also seek clarification and information about the measures that will be in place to ensure the safety and the security of the staff or personnel on the ground.

Furthermore, the African Group would also like to urge the Secretary General to take all necessary measures to ensure that the "*servicing as one*" principle is applied in the service delivery taking into account the involvement of various actors of the United Nations systems.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the Group would like to assure you of our readiness to engage in constructive dialog with the aim of reaching outcome in few minutes to come.

I thank you Mr. Chairman