
<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

**REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. JUSTIN KISOKA, MINISTER COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE
CLOSURE OF THE WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, DURING THE SECOND
RESUMED PART OF SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE**

(New York, Monday 13 June, 2016)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

....."The African Group join others to send our condolence to the government of the United States following the horrific incidence in Orlando. Our prayers go to the families and friends of those affected"....

The African Group would like to thank the Bureau under your continued able leadership related to guiding our work in the seventieth session and of course the conclusion of our agenda shortly. We appreciate the efforts of all stakeholders in particular interpreters, sound engineers and conference officers for facilitating our work. Special recognition goes to Ms. Sharon and her Fifth Committee Secretariat team for their hard work including handling Fifth Committee and Committee for Programme and Coordination at the same time.

We appreciate the presence of the Controller and the Chair of the Advisory Committee to our meeting today.

The Group aligns itself with comments and remarks expressed by the Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and we have few additions to make.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group once again is pleased to be part of the contributors to the outcomes reached by the experts today. We encourage continued improvement and innovative ideas to ensure future sessions are completed on allocated time-frame. We thank delegates for the positive engagement and understanding to address various issues which were tabled in the Committee.

It is our expectations that the Secretary-General and managers will ensure the timely and full implementation of the approved mandates, using the policy directives and resources just allocated-after rounds of long and difficult negotiations.

The outcome reached in this session carries a number of elements including the new provisions in cross cutting, Regional Service Center, Entebbe as well as some emphasis in mission specific including those related to support to the electoral process in Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia as well as directives on the use of technologies in the missions including in South Sudan.

The Group is also aware that there are some elements which the Committee couldn't agree but they require special attention. The Group believes on the need to address anomalies related to termination indemnity to field personnel in the peacekeeping operations as well as the review of the administrative and budgetary support package to AMISOM in particular on the elements of reimbursement and other logistical package to ensure they are at the same level of that of United Nations. We expect Secretary-General will continue his/her efforts to advise Member States on these issues and we look forward to discuss further in the future session and/or in different platform, as appropriate.

We are also look forward for positive consideration of the comprehensive proposal related to restructuring the UNOAU during the main part of 71st session;

Turning to the outcome related to financing the mediation capacity, while we note that the few capacity approved today will be bring some positive impact to the Department, the Group continue to be of strong believe on the need for Organization to invest more on the preventive diplomacy and mediation rather than the peacekeeping.

In this regard we look forward to consider, in the future Secretary-General's proposals for further strengthening the work of Organization in these areas in line with established budgetary procedures and methodologies. The Group would also like to take this opportunity to discourage unnecessary resource requests under "commitment authority" and we believe the Chair of the Advisory Committee will ensure the close attention is paid to this practice.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the ongoing informal discussions related to the working method and the schedule of the Fifth Committee, the African Group strongly believe that it's not a matter of looking at Fifth Committee alone but also the arrangement to the work of other stakeholders. The Group remain of strong supporter of the current arrangement, however as we remain open to discussions on this matter in the context of revitalization of the General Assembly in a comprehensive manner including elements of strengthening the timing of the Advisory Committee including extension of working hours and condition of service and other stakeholders which have direct impact to our work.

The Group also believes that, Member States should also be prepared to bear additional financial burden as a result of any adjustments from the existing practice. We should all remember that there are only 365 days in calendar year and that behavior of Member States in the negotiations can't be changed through programme of work.

On another note, the Group would also like to discourage the practice of some small number of delegation on the use of 'unnecessary tactics' to some of members of our Group. Some of these practices don't help the Committee rather create mistrust and negatively impacts the working relationship among the delegations. It is our expectation that the delegates will continue to respect the submission of views and comments from our Group the same way our Group respect the views and comments from their side even when we have disagreement. We would also like to stress the need to respect sovereignty of our individual membership.

Mr. Chairman

In few days there will be new coordinator of African Group in Fifth Committee. I would like to thank all those who facilitated Tanzania's coordination of the African Group during the seventieth session. We hope our efforts related to representing African interests and successful contribute to the work of the Committee, we take responsibilities for any shortcomings during our term.

In conclusion, allow me to wish all delegates a happy break outside Fifth Committee and we look forward to continue to work constructively together in the upcoming sessions. We also wish best of luck to those who are departing New York. At this stage, Mr. Kisoka is not part of the departing members.

I Thank you, Mr. Chairman