
<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. JUSTIN KISOKA, MINISTER COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK, AT THE
SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 2 May 2016)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to deliver one announcement:, During this part of the session, the African Group will also be co-facilitated by the Republic of Chad. Kindly feel free to contact Mr. Bachar Bong Abdallah, or myself on the Group related matters.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee during the second resumed part of the seventieth session of the Assembly. The Group would like to once again thank the Bureau under your able leadership for the continued efforts aimed at facilitating the delivery of the Committee responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner.

The Group also acknowledge the presence of Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant-Secretary General, the Controller as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee to our meeting today.

At the outset, as we look forward to consider a number of PKOs and other field related issues, the African Group would like to take this opportunity to commend men and women who have dedicated their lives in the services of the peacekeeping under the auspice of the United Nations and African Union. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during their terms of duty.

The African Group aligns itself with the remarks just presented by the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to add few elements.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group would like to appreciate the efforts of the Bureau for preparing the programme of work and we took note of the designation of the facilitators of the various agenda items that are to be considered during this part of the session. It is our understanding that, the programme of work will be updated regularly taking into account of the progress in the negotiations and the availability of documents.

The Group notes that during the second resumed part which is dedicated for administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the peacekeeping, the Committee is expected to consider about 90 voluminous documents with the majority of documents not ready on time and not translated into all the official languages. It is therefore regrettable that we once again have to register our concern of the late submission of large number of reports.

The Group also notes that the calendar of the Advisory Committee on the reports for this part of the session is also lagging behind a situation that could impact negatively the work of this and other intergovernmental machineries if not addressed immediately. The Committee would like to encourage all stakeholders to triple their efforts to ensure all documents are presented to the Committee in a timely manner. We also reiterates our position on the need to transform the Advisory Committee including revising the calendar and extending working sessions in line with improvement of the condition of service so as to enable the Committee deliver its increased workloads.

Mr. Chairman,

On the separate Note, the African Group would like to appreciate efforts of the Department of Field Support (DFS), Peacekeeping Operation (DPKO) and other field based offices related to facilitation of the Fifth Committee field trip conducted in February this year. The visit enabled our Group to note a number of progress and challenges that peacekeeping missions are facing, and it is in this background that our findings from the field mission visit will be applied, as appropriate to carefully scrutinize the budgetary proposals to ensure that, issues observed in the ground are addressed through the decisions to be adopted.

In this part of the session, the African Group will also take keen interest in looking carefully at the performance and proposals for all the closed and active peacekeeping operations, United Nations Support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, Regional Service Center in Entebbe as well as proposed budget for special political missions and oversight matters under the Board of Auditors and the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

Furthermore, the African Group will dedicate part of its efforts to address the pending and long waited proposals on Agenda 2030 and Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as revised estimates of the Department of Political Affairs on enhancing mediation capacity. We are not encouraging the deferment of these issues and we would like to encourage other delegation even those who may not have appetite for our interests to spare part of their efforts to address these issues which are important to the majority of our population.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group is aware of the fact that this session carries a heavy workload for the Committee but we strongly believe that, hard work, dedication, frankness, transparent and innovative ideas in our deliberations will facilitate the timely conclusion of our work. The African Group is prepared to take its part to ensure we conclude our business by end of the month. We are not prepared to impact the work of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) by extending this session beyond May. In this regard, the Group discourages the thinking that moves the Committee in the negative direction.

In conclusion, the African Group reiterates its longstanding position that the work of this Committee should be conducted in an open, inclusive and transparent manner and that small configuration negotiations in the closed door and small room need to be discouraged. The Group therefore wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively with other delegations, with a view to achieving a positive outcome on all agenda items by end of May.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman