

## **STATEMENT**

**ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY H. E. TEKEDA  
ALEMU, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE FINANCING OF ALL  
PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS DURING THE SECOND RESUMED  
PART OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FIFTH COMMITTEE  
(NEW YORK, 7 MAY, 2018)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on financing of all PKOs during the second resumed part of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. The African 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's responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner. The African Group aligns itself with the statement presented by H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Edrees, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

On behalf of the African Group, I wish to highlight some points about financing of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) as well as the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS). The African Group wishes to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary- General and Controller for introducing the various reports of the Secretary-General. We also wish to extend our appreciation to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the related reports. We wish to indicate that our group will make one statement for all PKOs in the spirit of keep up with our commitment in order to save time.

The African Group will continue its practice of limiting its statements on individual missions, in order to assist the Committee to move swiftly to the informal consultations and negotiations. In this regard, the African Group would like to use this opportunity to make a few general comments on peacekeeping operations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group wishes to register its appreciation for the efforts of the Department of Field Support (DFS), Peacekeeping Operation (DPKO) and other field-based offices with regard to the facilitation of the field trip of the Fifth Committee conducted in April this year. The visit enabled the committee to see firsthand realities on the ground and update itself of the progress and challenges that peacekeeping missions are facing, particularly in the area of improving the security and safety of troops and civilian personnel, inadequate facilities and infrastructure including accommodation, logistical support as well as medical facilities and it is against this knowledge that we will carefully scrutinize the budgetary proposals to ensure that the challenges are addressed.

With regard to the financing of PKOs, the African group takes note of the present report which provides an overview of the financial and administrative aspects of the UN PKOs. The United Nations currently supports 16 active peacekeeping operations, comprising 13 peacekeeping missions, funded under individual special accounts; two long-standing peacekeeping missions,

UNMOGIP and UNTSO, which were established long ago under the programme budget, and UNSOS, the logistical support operation in Somalia.

For the period 2017/2018, the total proposed budgets were in the amount of \$7,972 million for peacekeeping operations while the total approved resources amounted to \$6,803 million. For 2018/2019, the Group takes note of the proposed budget which is \$277 million lower than the level proposed for the 2017/18 financial period and \$980 million lower than that proposed for the 2016/17 period, bearing in mind that between the 2016/17 and 2018/19 periods, changing conditions in mission areas have resulted in the closure of three missions (UNMIL, UNOCI and MINUSTAH, the latter replaced by the establishment of MINUJUSTH).

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Group welcomes the Secretary-General call for more adequate support to African forces in peace enforcement, with strong mandates from the Security Council and predictable

funding, during his address to the African Union Summit last January.

The Group also recalls General Assembly resolution 70/286, by which the Secretary General is requested to report on measures taken to expand the participation of women in PKOs. The Group expresses its concerns regarding the fact that only 3 per cent of United Nations peacekeepers and 10 per cent of police are women. Also the group welcomes the upward trend which shows an increase in the number of women being appointed: women accounted for 46 per cent of appointments at the head and deputy head of mission level in 2017, compared with 22 per cent in 2016.

The Group recognizes the important role played by quick impact projects in supporting the implementation of mission mandates, and stresses the need for the timely, responsible and accountable implementation of all planned projects.

On the longstanding issue of outstanding dues to member States from closed peacekeeping Missions with cash deficit, the Group recalls that in its resolutions 65/293, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present concrete

proposals and alternatives to address the issue. We, therefore, look forward to taking up the report of the Secretary General with a view to reaching an outcome that resolves this problem.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group is conscious of the heavy workload for the Committee but we strongly believe that, hard work, dedication, frankness and transparency in our deliberation will facilitate the timely conclusion of our work. The Group would like to discourage the negotiation under small configurations in the closed doors. We would further like to stress that the Committee need to stick to the approved official timing as outlined in the Programme of Work.

In conclusion, the African Group reiterates its longstanding position that the work of this Committee should be conducted in an open, transparent and all inclusive manner. 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 PKOs' agenda items.

**I thank you.**