

**STATEMENT BY ISRAEL CHOKO DAVIES,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF LIBERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE 36TH FORMAL MEETING OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to thank you, and your illustrious team for your steadfast leadership, and to extend my deepest condolences to our colleagues in the Permanent Mission of La Cote d'Ivoire to the United Nations for the sad event of the passing of Ambassador Bernard Tanou-Boutchoue. May his soul, and others, rest in peace.

We also thank the Asst. Secretary-General, Comptroller, OPPBA, for introducing the Report of the Secretary-General on Financing PKO's and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing the related reports.

Liberia bears witness to the value of peacekeeping. It's important that we continue to take the required actions to sustain the peace, and prevent conflicts. But the reality of the world today is that there are many places already bogged down by conflicts. They need us to help them find peace, and count on us to keep their peace should we help them to make it.

Whilst remembering with immense appreciation the contribution the United Nations has made to ensuring peace in Liberia, I feel obliged to share with you all the resources deployed in UNMIL:

UNMIL comprised at least 126,582 military officers; 16,178 Police officers; 23,234 civilian staff, and it carried out 17 different mandates. Certainly, it was one of the largest deployment in the history of the United Nations. The Mission, as we have been informed, was valued at 7.5 billion dollars over the 14 year span in Liberia.

Today, Liberia goes beyond being a host country of a peace keeping mission. We are now giving back what others have done for us... our mission in Mali for example.

With your help, we have had three successful elections... in 2005, 2011 and 2017.

As we have seen in Liberia, we need our gallant blue-helmet soldiers to be ready and fully capacitated for the changing dimensions of the prevailing conflicts with which we are already engaged. And we need them be reassured of the fullness of our collective support.

Mr. Chairman, Liberia is grateful to all member states for their contributions toward the successful UNMIL Mission to our country which just ended this gone March. Certainly, Liberia had its moment, and you all were ideally remembered as we celebrated our moment.

We also feel compelled to draw attention to the need to continue to support the new UN Country Team which will continue to accompany my country on its journey to sustaining its cherished peace.

Thank you for your attention, understanding and support.