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REMARKS BY MÁRCIO BURITY, THIRD SECRETARY AT PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE SECOND RESUMED PART OF 72ND SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NEW YORK, 5 JULY, 2018)

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group would like to thank the Bureau under your continued able leadership related to guiding our work in the seventy second 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, as always, 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 Ms. Jan Beagle, Under-Secretary-General of Department of Management, Mr. Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General of Department of Field Support, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee to our meeting today.

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

While the Group share the consensus outcome reached today, we would like to register concern in the way the proceedings were conducted. The unnecessary delays in consideration of many items in particular the budget for Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) - as, the efforts were dedicated just few days before beginning of the peacekeeping financial year begin.

Mr. Chairman,

The agreement reached during our deliberations was achieved with sacrifice and painful concession from our Group and others, in particular on the level of the budget, therefore the African Group expresses concerns about the tendency and the limited resources allocated for the peace-keeping operations whose primary objective is to support member states efforts for peace and stability and ensure protection of the civilians who are more vulnerable, in particular women and children.

Once again, we call the attention of all, if the tendency of doing more with less resources continues, soon enough we will end up with nothing for the mandate implementation, as well as without the human resource capacities which could be occasioned by the uncertainty year after year regarding their continued engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

While we managed to secure the fundamentals of the budget, the African Group believes that substantial cuts across the line will put in high risk the mandate implementation and reduce the credibility of the United Nations. Therefore, we call upon all our partners to continue working in a constructive manner towards a consensual outcome, and at the expert's level to avoid a risky outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly urge individual Member States and group of countries to avoid in the future any further approach of significant cuts in the budget seeking efficiency, and we alert that the risk of non-consensual outcome is very high and the price to be paid for all of us constitute a very serious matter, and instead, we recommend to all membership to pay, as soon as possible, their contributions in full and on timely manner, to avoid the

accumulation of arrears, to avoid short falling of cash putting the secretariat in a difficult position if not impossible to deliver the mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group believes on the need to continue to ensure the sessions of the Committee are concluded within allocated time frame according to the program of work - it has been the practice in the past and we strongly believe it is possible despite the complexity of the agenda.

The African Group will continue to dedicate efforts in the Committee to ensure intergovernmental nature of decision making processes is not compromised including – addressing many items within the experts’ level.

I also take this opportunity to thank my own Group for the substantial contribution, the sacrifices, for the high level of flexibility and constructive approach, and welcomes also the upcoming Chair, H.E Ms. Gillian Bird, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, who will guide the committee during the 73rd session as Chair of the Fifth Committee.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.