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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY MR. MÁRCIO BURITY, THIRD SECRETARY AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE FIRST
RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
[GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FIFTH COMMITTEE**

NEW YORK, 14 MARCH 2018

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on the organization of work of the first resumed part of the United Nations General Assembly fifth committee
2. At the outset the Group would like to welcome back all the members of the committee after the two-month recess, the officials of the Secretariat as well as those who facilitate the committee's work including the interpreters, sound engineers and fifth committee bureau. The African Group aligns itself with the statements as delivered by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
3. The Group thanks the committee's bureau for preparing the programme of work. We have taken note on the status of documentation. We also thank the Secretary-General and the ACABQ for the reports which have been produced to facilitate negotiations.
4. The Group takes this opportunity to welcome Egypt as the current chair of the Group of 77 and China. We believe and trust that Egypt will effectively steer our negotiations to an excellent conclusion. We wish them success. The Group would like to sincerely thank Ecuador for work well done during the year 2017 in facilitating work of the committee.
5. The Group notes that the committee has roughly two weeks to conclude the work of this first resumed session. We believe that all delegations will participate in the negotiations in a sincere manner to conclude within the programmed time and bearing in mind the dynamics of the intergovernmental nature of the organization. We trust that, to conclude the work as stipulated

will be possible if all delegations abide strictly to the principles of inclusiveness, openness and transparency in engaging in the negotiations.

6. We also noted that this session will be short lack of items to be considered, and stress the need to have a well balanced Programme of Work. Therefore we urge all stakeholders like the Secretariat, the ACABQ and the Bureau to find pragmatic synergies towards a quick submission of reports to this committee before the end of the month including among others the report on Peace and Security pillar reform which is concluded by Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Regarding the agenda items before the committee, the Group considers them to be of great importance.
8. The Group believes that availability of a conducive working environment is indispensable in improving staff productivity and welfare is ensured. In this regard, we note with satisfaction that construction of a new facility for the Arusha branch of the International residual mechanism for criminal tribunal was successfully finished and hence the Group will be interested in understanding more about the implementation of the defects liability phase which has been taking place.
9. Bearing in mind that the GA main session in December approved the commitment authority in the amount of USD 87.8 Million for the maintenance of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals pending a re-submission of the revised budget proposal for the biennium 2018 - 2019. Through you, Mr. Chairman, we request the bureau to include consideration of the mechanism's budget in the agenda of the second resumed session scheduled to be held in May. Any further deferment of this matter could lead to a standstill of operations at the Mechanism.
10. The Group thanks the Secretary General's efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of managing travel of officials. The Group will therefore participate in negotiations on the agenda item on standards of accommodation for air travel.
11. Ensuring effective oversight of the organizations management and operations is of great importance to the African Group. In this regard, we will keenly follow and participate in negotiations on the report and work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Mr. Chairman,

12. In conclusion, the African Group would like to re-assure of its commitment to participate effectively on all agenda items in this session and look forward for constructive deliberations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman