

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY MRS CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO , COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE AGENDA ITEM 134- PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 2016-2017: ESTIMATES IN RESPECT OF SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS, GOOD OFFICES AND OTHER POLITICAL INITIATIVES AUTHORIZED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THEMATIC CLUSTERS I: SPECIAL AND PERSONAL ENVOYS AND SPECIAL ADVISERS 28 NOVEMBER 2018

Madame Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 134:program budget for biennium 2016-2017, estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, thematic clusters I and II.

At the outset, the Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA), as well as Mr. Babu Sene Vice- Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their reports.

Madame Chair,

The African Group attaches great importance to the critical role played by Special Political Missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/ or the Security Council, in United Nations efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, to sustain peace, lead to reconciliation and eventually economic reconstruction and development.

While the Group acknowledges that some progress has been made in achieving the objectives of these offices, we are also aware that Special Political Missions operate in extremely difficult environments with escalation of conflict, arms proliferation, mass displacement of civilian populations especially women and children and dealing with post-conflict reconstruction. Therefore the Group continues to believe that adequate allocation of resources for SPMs is a crucial for the effective discharge of their mandates.

Madame Chair,

The Group notes that the resources proposed for 2019 for the 11 continuing missions under cluster I is a total of \$55,900,900 which is an increase of \$6,606,400, or 13.4 per cent. The estimated expenditure for the missions under cluster II in 2019 amount to \$35,706,500, which is an increase of \$196,100, or 0.5 per cent, over the appropriation for 2018. The Group will seek to ensure that adequate funding is allocated to the Secretary Generals proposals.

The Group will seek clarification on the operational requirements related to the work of these missions in General and more so with regard to those operating in Africa. We will also seek clarification on the cost-sharing arrangements in the areas of transport, facilities and medical Services as well as the application of best practices in use of renewable energy for power generation.

While, the Group is mindful of the recommendations made by the General Assembly on Air travel, the group takes note of the complex challenges encountered by the SPMs and the rapidly changing realities on the ground which may contradict the compliance with the advance purchase policy as well as require extension of the standard of accommodation given to staff members of the Secretariat to be extended to some categories of experts.

The Group takes interest in the continued assertion of the correlation between increased years of service from 7 to 10 and the potential for reduced security risks to the experts of the panels and will seek details in this regard as well as the Geographical status of the experts on this panel considering that over 60% of the conflict resources are allocated to Africa.

While noting that the overuse of temporary job openings was one of the main factors preventing stronger workforce planning in the Organization, our Group will examine with keen interest how the granting of a special post allowance to staff has been applied in the foregone period as well as the hindrance in the recruitment process that have caused continuation of vacant posts. The Group will also examine the Geographical representation of the experts.

The Group continues to take note of the collaboration between various SPMs, good offices and other political initiatives, in particular those in Africa and relevant regional and sub-regional organizations. We note that there are multiple United Nations entities involved in addressing conflict prevention and mediation in the region and reiterate our request to the Secretary-General to continue consolidating these efforts to bring about synergies and efficiencies.

Our Group continues to place to emphasis on the importance of the utilising regional knowledge and expertise benefiting from the comparative advantage of regional and sub-regional organizations in solving of conflicts. The Group also continues to stress the importance of using existing in-house capacities as well as Regional and Sub regional organizations as opposed to consultants.

Madame Chair,

We look forward to an amicable conclusion of these Agenda items.

I thank you

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MRS CAROLINE NALWNAGA MAGAMBO, COUNSELOR , PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDAITEM 136: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM2018-2019: REQUEST FOR A SUBVENTION TO THE RESIDUAL SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIFTH COMMITTEE . (New York, 28 November, 2018)

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on this agenda item.

At the outset, the Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA), as well as Mr. Babu Sene Vice- Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their reports.

Our condolences go to the friends and family of Mr. Desmond Da Silva, a former Prosecutor of the Special Court who passed away during the year. May he rest in peace.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and wishes to make additional remarks.

Madam Chair,

While we acknowledge article 3 of the Agreement establishing the Residual Special Court, whereby the expenses of the Court shall be borne by voluntary contributions from the international community, without precluding the exploration of alternative means of funding the Court, we also acknowledge that this funding arrangement has posed serious challenges to the continued sustainability of the Court, thereby threatening the effective implementation of its mandate.

The African Group notes that extensive fundraising activities were undertaken by the Oversight Committee, the principals of the Court and other relevant stakeholders in 2018. Despite these concerted efforts, funding challenges for the RSCSL still remain. This underscores the unpredictability and unreliability of the current funding mechanisms of voluntary contributions to support the work of the Court.

In 2019, the Secretary-General has requested for approval of a subvention of **\$2,984,600** to enable the Residual Special Court to continue to carry out its mandate.

Madam Chair.

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone commenced operations on 1st January, 2014 to succeed the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL). In preservation of the legacy of the Special Court in matters of international criminal justice, the Residual Special Court has had to undertake, inter alia, supervision of the enforcement of sentences, review of convictions and acquittals, conduct of contempt of court proceedings or referral, witness and victim protection and support as well as maintenance, preservation and management of archives of the Special Court.

With regard to archives, we note that its compilation and final review, which include 600 linear meters of paper records and about 13.4 terabytes of digital archives, is expected to be completed in March 2019.

Madam Chair,

The African Group would like to emphasize that the lack of a sustainable funding mechanism would adversely undermine the Residual Special Court in the implementation of its mandate. The Group recognizes that, given the profile of persons convicted by the Special Court, including a former Head of State, who are currently serving prison sentences under the supervision of the Residual Special Court, it is in the best interest of international peace and security in general, and the West African sub-region in particular, that the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone has a long term sustainable means of funding such as Assessed Contributions from the UN Member States. The African Group is committed to continue working in collaboration with other members of the Committee in achieving this mutually beneficial goal.

In view of the dire financial situation of the Court, the African Group supports the approval of the Secretary-General's proposed resource requirement of **\$2,984,600** for 2019 to enable the Residual Special Court to continue carrying out its mandate.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, the Group would like to thank the Government of Sierra Leone, Member States and relevant stakeholder institutions for the continued support to the Court.

The Group stands ready to engage constructively for a timely and successful conclusion of the agenda item.

I thank you.