

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY H.E AMBASSADOR OMAR HILALE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE ORGANISATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2018)**

Madam Chair, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

At the outset, the African Group would like to congratulate Excellency Ms. Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations for your appointment as the Chair of this Committee. We are Proud that our Committee will be steered by female leadership for the next one year: In the same vain we also extend our congratulations to all the Members of the Bureau upon their successful appointment.

The African Group would like to re-assure you Madam Chair and the rest of the Bureau of our continued commitment to supporting you in fulfilling your obligations in an efficient and effective manner.

The Group would also like to express our deepest appreciation to the outgoing Bureau for the excellent work done under the guidance of Amb. Tommo Monte, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Kingdom of the Arab republic of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and we have a few additional remarks.

Madam Chair, in regard to the organization of work of the Fifth committee, the African Group would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the draft programme of work and also welcomes the designated Coordinators who will facilitate the various agenda items to be considered during this part of the session. The Group notes, that the Committee is expected to consider a large number of documents related to various agenda items and as usual this will place a very heavy workload on all of us. The Group has also taken note

with appreciation that; you Madame Chair have undertaken efforts to ensure that we conclude our program of work on time. We welcome these efforts and also continue to note that the most significant impediment to the timely conclusion of our work remains the late issuance of documents.

Madam Chair, The African Group would like to recall that we have a very important agenda item of Human Resources Management which will include aspects of the reform process this year and as human resource constitutes the most valuable assets to the Organization, it's our strongest expectation that the human resources management and related agenda items will be prioritized in this session. We therefore look forward to a reflection of the importance we attach this agenda item in the program of work.

Our Group will also pay close attention to matters related to the Board of Auditor's, International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, UNAMID, Umoja, reports of the Joint staff pension fund and common system, financing of the special political missions (SPMs), ICT, construction and property management, Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, scale of assessments, common system, report of the Internal oversight system among many other important agenda items.

Furthermore, our Group will examine in detail implementation of a number of mandated activities related to issues of our Group interests and pay close attention on other issues of common interest.

Madam Chair, in regard to the scale of assessment on the apportionment of expenses of the United Nations, in particular Article 19 of the Charter, the African Group would like to stress the need for speedy decision on this matter to enable the concerned Member States to fully participate in the General Assembly work. We believe that the Committee will conclude the informal on this matter this morning.

The African Group believes that, the timely conclusion of the work of this committee will depend on the conduct of negotiations by delegations and The African Group has been following closely the discussions by some delegations on the working method of this Committee including the regular extension of the programme of work beyond official allocated timeframe. While we share the views that there are challenges in the work of the Committee, as the case for many other intergovernmental bodies, the Group doesn't believe in conducting the business of the Fifth Committee like that

of other committees especially the idea of negotiating a predetermined text. The African Group strongly believes that timely issuance of reports; constructive engagement, dedication and sacrifice remain solutions to the challenges we face in the Fifth Committee.

In conclusion, the African Group would like to stress its longstanding position that negotiations in this Committee should be conducted in an open, inclusive, transparent manner and within the official allocated time. We would like to assure you of our Group's readiness to engage constructively with a view to achieving positive outcomes on all agenda items under consideration in a timely manner.

I thank you,