

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ADONIA AYEBARE, THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 148: BUDGET OF THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE IN ENTEBBE, UGANDA DURING THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 4TH MAY 2020)**

**Mr. Chair,**

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Uganda on agenda item 148: Administrative and Budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: Budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE), Uganda for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements read by the representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 & China and that of the African Group read by the representative of Botswana. I will add a few remarks in my national capacity.

3. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, the Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, and to Mr. Abdallah Bong, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing their respective reports.

**Mr. Chair,**

4. My delegation wishes to pledge the unwavering support of the Government of Uganda to the continued growth of the United Nations activities at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and its operations in pacifying the region.

5. I wish to recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 64/269 established the Regional Service Center in Entebbe, Uganda as the first Shared Service Center for Missions in the region under the Global Field Support Strategy and the General Assembly further in its resolution 69/307 gave the Center operational and managerial independence and requested the Secretary-General to submit a budget proposal to be charged against the Missions the Center supports.

6. As of today, the Center is supporting (eight) 8 Peacekeeping Missions and (ten) 10 Special Political Missions, as well as other Missions in the region by providing human resources, administrative and financial services for various categories of personnel. The Secretary-General has also proposed to expand the full-service client base of the Center to (twenty) 20 missions, with the addition of two client entities. i.e., Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator and Panel of

Experts on Somalia as the Center continues to provide support for over 77 percent of the United Nations field operations globally, serve over 17,500 personnel, including international and national staff as well as uniformed personnel.

7. Considering the number of transactions carried out by the RSCE, my delegation is particularly concerned that up to date, the Centre is governed by the Steering Committee even when the General Assembly gave it operational and managerial independence. We urge the Secretary-General to consider establishing a post of Director (D-2) at the Centre to provide strengthened leadership and for the continued timely delivery of services and management of changes at the Centre in light of the increased workload and in accordance with the established practice and governance structure in similar Centers.

8. My delegation also appeals to the Secretary-General to ensure that the vacant posts in the Centre are filled expeditiously and ensure that the Centre is adequately staffed and provided with adequate resources to enable it effectively implement its mandate, especially now that it has an increased client base and new structure.

9. In relation to the above, the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/286, noted that the national staff of the Centre are eligible for continuing contracts and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that they are granted continuing contracts in line with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions. My delegation urges the Secretary-General to facilitate the issuance of continuing contracts to the national staff that meet the eligibility requirements in compliance with the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

10. Finally, my delegation urges the Secretary-General to halt the implementation of any new changes to the Air operations, supply chain and procurement until the results of the ongoing study on the Strategic Air Operations Centre, the Transportation, and Movements Integrated Control Centre as well the Global Procurement Support Section in the context of an integrated supply chain management approach are released, and the Member States can pronounce themselves on that study. Any decisions made before receipt of the results of the study would prejudice the outcome of that study.

**IN CONCLUSION**, Mr. Chair, I assure you of my delegation's commitment to engage constructively on this agenda item that is of paramount importance to us.

**I thank you**