

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. KATLEGO BOASE MMALANE, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 148: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: UNITED NATIONS LOGISTICS BASE (UNLB). SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY- FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(NEW YORK, 4 MAY 2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 148: Administrative and Budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB), for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.
2. The African Group would like to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan the Assistant Secretary-General and Controller and Mr. Abdallah Bong the Chair of the Advisory Committee, for introducing their respective reports.
3. The African Group associates and aligns itself with the statement issued by the Group of 77 & China, and we wish to add a few remarks.

Mr. Chair,

4. As indicated by the Representative of the G77 and China, the African Group also recalls that the United Nations Logistics Base operates as a unified entity, comprising the Global Service Centre, Brindisi, and the United Nations Information and Communications Technology Facility, Valencia, both of which provide global geospatial, information and telecommunications technologies, logistics and supply chain operational management, as well as enabling support services throughout the life cycle of field missions, from start-up planning and preparation to liquidation.
5. The African Group takes note of the remarks of the Advisory committee and also recalls that the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include, in future budget submissions regarding UNLB, information on all of the personnel occupying the facilities in Brindisi and Valencia, as well as details on administrative and cost recovery arrangements, rental and maintenance costs, income received and any other relevant information on the utilization of United Nations premises

(A/69/839/Add.9, para. 55). Just as indicated by the Advisory Committee the African group notes that while part of the recommendation has been addressed in the report of the Secretary-General, more information is still required.

6. The African Group has noted that the Secretary General has indicated that a total of 546 full-time support personnel from other entities will occupy premises at UNLB, most of whom will provide functions related to communications and information technology, including personnel from the United Nations Field Staff Union, the Umoja master data management team and other United Nations personnel providing other services.
7. The General Assembly and Advisory committee have also previously noted that extrabudgetary posts funded through cost-recovery income should also be reflected in the organization chart, with appropriate annotations (A/70/742/Add.9, para. 68). The African Group will require more information on the nature of activities to be carried out by these personnel and on their recruitment.
8. The African Group also recalls that the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly have over the years recommended that transparent and comprehensive information on expenditures incurred and income received for all services provided to other Secretariat and non-Secretariat entities be included, as a routine matter, in future budget submissions. While some progress has been made in the current budget proposal, we wish to obtain more information in regard to the cost-recovery estimates.

Mr. Chair

9. In Paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee and Paragraph 58 of the report of the Secretary-General notes that the new global structure began effective January 2019, and that this has created the expansion of the UNLB to cover SPMS, Regional Commissions, OAH and RCO's in line with the mandate of DOS to support a wide range of Secretariat and Non-Secretariat entities. The Group will seek to understand the origin of the mandate that approved the expansion of the UNLB services to make them Global in nature even though the Group recalls that in 2017 the name but not the mandate of UNLB was changed to Global Service Center while that of the center in Valencia changed to United Nations Information and Technology Facility Valencia.

10. Mr. Chair,

The African Group wishes to express its concern over the continued expansion of air operations activities in the Strategic Air Operations

Centre in UNLB, Italy , namely exercising global operational control for all out-of-mission flights and providing strategic air support for all clients, exercising global fleet management for the overall United Nations air fleet and providing technical administration for the real-time United Nations global tracking system, strategic air movement of contingent personnel and standby aircraft charter agreement.

- 11.** The African Group notes with concern that while the mandate of SAOC is being expanded, the Air Operations carried out at the Transport Movement Integrated Control Centre “TMICC” in Entebbe, have been halted pending a study being undertaken to define and optimize the collective roles of SOAC in Brindisi, TMICC in Entebbe and the Headquarters and that the findings would be presented in the budget proposal for 2021/2022 period.

Mr. Chair

- 12.** In conclusion, the African Group remains ready to engage in a constructive manner on this agenda item with a view to achieving a consensual outcome.

I thank you