

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY H.E. MICHEL TOMMO MONTHÉ, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 139: REVIEW OF EFFICIENCY: MANAGEMENT REFORM – IMPLEMENTATION: SHIFTING THE MANAGEMENT PARADIGM IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(NEW YORK, OCTOBER 28TH, 2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 139: "Review of efficiency: Management reform- Implementation: Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations."

2. The African Group would like to thank Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet, for presenting the Secretary General's report A/75/201 titled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: a review of progress in the implementation of management reform." We also wish to thank the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong for introducing the related report. As well, the recommendations and observations of the Board of Auditors on the subject are duly acknowledged.

3. The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the G77 and China and would like to make a few additional remarks.

Mr. Chair,

4. The African Group commends the Secretary-General's efforts in advancing the implementation of the Management reforms despite the challenges brought about by the COVID 19 Pandemic. We note that significant effort has been made during the pandemic to ensure business continuity and, by extension, undertaking the Management reforms with minimal disruption.

5. The African Group would like to mention particular elements of the Management reforms that have had a direct and tangible impact on business transformation.

6. We appreciate the Secretary-General's efforts in establishing the Uniformed Capabilities Support Division in the Office of Supply Chain

Management, which has consolidated the reimbursement and memorandum of understanding management functions that were previously fragmented across numerous departments. Creating a single point of contact for troop- and police-contributing countries on all administrative and logistical issues related to deployment and reimbursement has been indeed already brought on board tremendous benefits to both Member States and the Secretariat.

7. We further commend the strengthening of partnerships with regional organizations and with troop- and police-contributing countries and in particular improving cooperation and interoperability in support-focused partnerships between the United Nations, the African Union and the European Commission, inclusive of logistical support to possible peace operations and the Triangular Partnership Project, which has made it possible to cover additional functional areas such as medical training.

8. We welcome the improvements in the Supply Chain management and note the Secretary-General's intentions to seek further synergies in the functions, organization, and mandates of the United Nations Logistics Base and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe within the overall supply chain management architecture of the Secretariat.

9. We note that following the transfer of the resident coordinator system to the Secretariat, the Office of Information and Communications Technology has focused on supporting greater interoperability between the Secretariat and agencies, funds, and programs of the United Nations system.

10. We further note that the Office of Information and Communications Technology has also supported the Development Coordination Office to establish country-specific collaboration teams to allow resident coordinators to facilitate inter-agency cooperation. In as much as these are welcome developments, we wish to reaffirm that any change in the Secretariat's administrative function remains under the purview of the General Assembly, whose approval should have been sought.

11. The African Group welcomes the progress in advancing the Secretary General's commitment to transparency and accountability by having program managers capture planned program plans, including intended results and deliverables, and recording progress of implementation against related performance measures on a performance dashboard.

We wish to commend the Secretary-General in this regard and request him to include trackers on the same dashboard to implement equitable geographical representation and the inclusion of a roster management system that would capture the same ideals.

12. On another note, we wish to commend all the efforts geared towards improving staff and senior managers training. We look forward to receiving further details in this regard.

13. We have taken note of the Secretary General's proposals to improve the budgeting process, including the program budget's annualization, starting with the proposed program budget for 2020. The General Assembly supported this effort in its resolution 72/266 A by approving the shift on a trial basis to an annual program budget. However, as noted in the General Assembly's current dynamics, the fit between the annual budget and the sequencing of the program planning outcomes remains an outstanding issue. We look forward to discussing this further under the Sequencing report.

14. Finally, we take cognizance that improvements that are to be brought about by the reforms could be better but have been hindered by cashflow issues due to late payments and, in some cases, non-payment of assessed contributions by individual Member States. As the General Assembly, we note that this is the baseline support we can provide to the Secretary-General to ensure progress.

15. Despite our apparent challenges, we, the African Group, remain committed to making our payments on time and in full and urge all Member States to do the same without condition.

16. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I wish to reassure you of the African Group's readiness to engage constructively on this important agenda item, to conclude deliberations promptly.

Thank you.