

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP  
BY JOSEPH MASILA, MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ON AGENDA ITEM 140: IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH  
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 28 October 2021)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on Agenda Item 140. Improving the Financial Situation of the United Nations.
2. At the outset, the Africa Group would like to thank Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under-Secretary-General: Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance for her presentation on the Financial Situation of the United Nations made on 19 October 2021.
3. The Group also expresses its appreciation to the Office of Contributions for the updated information on the payment of assessments by the Member States and its continued support to the Member States in the process of fulfilling their financial obligations.
4. The Africa Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Republic of Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and wishes to make the following additional remarks.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. We once again have here the opportunity to collectively reflect on the financial situation of the Organization. The Africa Group reaffirms its long standing position that the financial health of the Organization depends on Member States meeting their financial obligations in full, on time and without conditions.
6. The Group wishes to acknowledge with a deep sense of appreciation all Member States who, despite the very challenging circumstances and socio-economic disruptions occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic, have made real efforts to pay their assessed contribution in time, in full and without condition. Similarly, the Group appreciates those Members States who have striven to reduce their

outstanding contributions. The Group notes with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General aimed at improving the financial position of the Organization.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. The Group salutes the timely decision of the General Assembly on the Scale of Assessments to grant exemption under Article 19 of the UN Charter, thus enabling concerned Member States to fully participate in the work of the 76 General Assembly.
8. In the same vein, the Africa Group calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that the implementation of the programmes and activities of the United Nations that are funded from the regular budget are not delayed or scaled down due to the non-payment of assessed contributions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. The Africa Group notes that following a period of unpredictability in the pattern of collections and the resultant liquidity crisis in the organization, significant progress has been made in reversing the cash deficit. This includes the record collection of US \$1 billion in April that improved the cash position as at the end of April 2021. The Group further notes that despite this progress, late payment of assessed contributions still hamper full implementation of mandate and will durably affect the functioning of the organization.
10. It is thus our hope that more early contributions will be made during this 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly and that member states withholding contributions will make necessary payments with the view to further easing the restrictions on hiring of staff and non-post spending. The Organization cannot be expected to do more with less resources.
11. The Group notes with satisfaction that payments for troops and formed police units and contingent-owned equipment are current for all missions except US \$87,6 million for UNAMID. The group trust that all creative initiatives will be taken to ensure full reimbursement of troop and police contributing countries.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**12.** It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused so much health and economic devastation in the world in general and the African continent in particular, has positioned the United Nations at the centre of the global response to the pandemic, including recovery and building back better. This requires that the United Nations has reliable and predictable funding to effectively deliver its mandate.

**13.** In conclusion, Mr. Chair, the African Group assures you that it will engage constructively in resolving the financial difficulties the Organization faces.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.