

## **STATEMENT**

**on behalf of the African Group by Mr. Brouz Ralph COFFI, Counselor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations, on the Programme of Work, at the main part of the sixty-sixth session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly**

**(New York, 29 September 2011)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

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 sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The African group fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to make the following additional comments.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group congratulates you, H.E. Mr. Michel Tommo Monthé, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations, on your election as Chairman for the Bureau of the Fifth Committee. The Group also congratulates the other members of the Bureau on their election and we believe that your vast experience in the work of the United Nations in general, the ACABQ, the CPC and this Committee in particular, will prove invaluable as you chair the Bureau during the sixty-sixth session. We also wish to express our deep appreciation to the Bureau for the 65<sup>th</sup> session which was chaired by H.E. Mr. Gert Rosenthal Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, for expertly guiding the work of the Committee during the last session.

With regard to the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee for the main part of the sixty-sixth session, the African Group would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the Programme of work and welcomes the designation of coordinators to facilitate, on behalf of the Chair of the Bureau of the Committee, the various agenda items that are to be considered during this session.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Fifth Committee is expected to deal with over 137 reports and 17 agenda items, some of which are as yet to be issued. While we note the progress that has been made over the last few years in the timely submission of documents, we are aware that the compliance rate still remains below the 90% benchmark. The late issuance of documents therefore constitutes a major challenge that this Committee continues to face and there is an urgent need to find a lasting solution to this specific situation.

The African Group is therefore deeply concerned that many reports are yet to be issued and neither have the dates of issuance been provided. To facilitate the effective discharge of the mandate of this Committee and to ensure that each agenda item is given proper consideration, it is important that all the pending reports are issued expeditiously.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, the African Group reiterates its long-standing position that the work of this Committee should be conducted in an open, transparent and all inclusive manner. The Group therefore wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively with other delegations, with a view to achieving a positive outcome on all agenda items. I thank You.