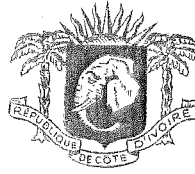


**MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE**  
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**STATEMENT MADE ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. BROUZ COFFI,  
COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND AGENDA ITEMS 148,  
154, 155, 156, 160.(a), 160.(b), 162 and 163 DURING THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF  
THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(New York, 7 May, 2012)**

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**Check against delivery**

**Mr. Chairman**

1. On behalf of the African Group, I would like to congratulate you and your bureau for the continued able stewardship of the work of the Fifth Committee during the previous sessions and we thank the bureau for preparing and presenting to us a program of work which we are ready to endorse on the understanding that the bureau will review it, based on the availability of the documents and the progress of the negotiations.
2. From the outset, the African Group would like to fully align itself with the Statement just made by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and would like to make the following additional comments.
3. The Group wishes to thank the Under Secretary General for Peace Keeping Operations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous, the Assistant Secretary General of Department of Field Support, and the Assistant Secretary General/ Controller, Ms. Maria Eugenia for joining us today and we look forward to interact with them and other officials from their department in the course of our deliberations.
4. The Group would also like to thank the Chairman of the ACABQ Mr. Collen Kelapile, as well as, the others members of the Advisory Committee for their dedicated work and their reports which will facilitate our deliberations.

**Mr. Chairman**

5. The Second resumed session is traditionally dedicated to the consideration of peacekeeping operations in general and most importantly to the approval of the budgets of various peacekeeping missions. This is and should remain the focus of our deliberations and therefore we urge the bureau to ensure that sufficient time, within the overall timeframe of the session, is provided to these important discussions. In this regard, we urge the secretariat to ensure that supplementary information requested by member states is provided in timely manner to facilitate negotiations.

**Mr. Chairman**

6. The African Group has noted with concern that the budget proposals for many peacekeeping Missions reflect significant cuts. In this regard, it is the intention of this Group to scrutinize the basis upon which these proposals have been developed and how best to ensure that mandates are effectively delivered and the security of all peacekeepers is not compromised.
7. In the context of the foregoing, we wish to reiterate the longstanding position of the Group that the budget of each peacekeeping mission should be considered on its own merit, based on specific mandates, and taking into account the unique circumstances of each peacekeeping mission.

**M. Chairman**

8. The General Assembly has in many resolutions reaffirmed that UN personnel are the most valuable assets of this organization. The safety and well being of UN peacekeepers is of utmost importance to our Group. It is, therefore, imperative that concerns that have been raised by Troop Contributing Countries on the sustainability of UN Peacekeeping Operations be addressed effectively.

9. On the longstanding issue of outstanding dues to member States from closed peacekeeping Missions with cash deficit, the Group recalls that in its resolution 65/293, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present concrete proposals and alternatives to address the issue. We, therefore, look forward to taking up the report of the Secretary General with a view to reaching an outcome that resolves this problem.

**Mr. Chairman**

10. In conclusion, we want to state categorically that it is the firm belief of the African Group that constructive dialogue within the Committee can result in the conclusion of the session within the established timeframe. This can only happen if all delegations commit themselves to be guided by the rules of procedures of the General Assembly. This is a Committee of the whole, and its business should be conducted in an open, transparent and all-inclusive manner. We must avoid negotiations in small groupings or in any other configurations that attempt to substitute this Committee. The African Group will not accept to be pushed into agreements based on package deals and which may have been discussed outside of the framework of the Fifth Committee.

11. I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the willingness of the African Group to engage into constructive dialogue on all agenda items during this session.

**I thank you.**