

**NIGERIAN DELEGATION STATEMENT MADE BY MR. FELIX
AYIBANUAH DATUOWEI, MINISTER AT THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE ORGANIZATION
OF WORK OF THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED SIXTY-SIXTH
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 7 May 2011)**

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation has the honour to express its confidence and trust in your leadership to provide the desired guidance and focus in the programme of the Fifth Committee in the second part of the resumed sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, just as you did in the two previous segments. For that reason, you will continue to enjoy the support and cooperation of my delegation.

My delegation has the pleasure to welcome the different delegations and Groups of the Fifth Committee to yet another very promising and businesslike segment of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

The dutiful presence of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Field Support, and the Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, Ms. Maria Eugenia in this organizational meeting gives my delegation exceptional pleasure.

The Chairman of the ACABQ, Mr. Collen Kelapile along with other members of his Advisory Committee have earned the worthy appreciation of my delegation in their rendering of professional advice and recommendations to the Fifth Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Statements earlier presented by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and thereafter by the distinguished representative of Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group enjoy the full support of my delegation.

Issues to be negotiated at the second part of the resumed sixty-sixth session are essentially enmeshed in peacekeeping operations which have continued to enjoy exponential share of the United Nations regular budget. Adequate funding of peacekeeping operations remains a concern to my delegation. When resources are not sufficiently made available to peacekeeping operations, particularly in strife-ridden regions of Africa, the impact is usually felt in their outcomes.

The troop-contributing countries (of which my country is a major) continue to bear heavy financial burden owing to the long review of troop costs since 1992. General Assembly resolution 65/289 VI of 8 September 2011 requested the Secretary-General to establish a Senior Advisory Group (SAG) to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues. Signals emanating from that body do not suggest the outcome of the Group's exercise will be completed for the consideration of this Committee in this segment of the 66th session. Unless another pragmatic approach is adopted in the interim to provide on an exceptional basis, a one-time supplemental payment of 85 million United States dollars to troop-contributing countries during the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, without prejudice to the likely recommendations of the SAG, the TCCs would be subjected to further hardships. Not only that, implementation of UN mandates could suffer reverses.

Mr. Chairman,

The problem of delayed issuance of parliamentary documents as it seems, will continue to find space in the different statements presented by delegates. The Secretariat, as tried as it makes the Committee to believe, has failed to demonstrate it would find solution to the problem very soon. A good number of documents are yet to be completed even with the commencement of the second part of the resumed session. The six weeks rule for the distribution of documents to conference participants remains a serious challenge to the Secretariat.

Identification of cross-cutting targets for resource reductions in response to General Assembly resolution 65/289 with a view to achieving economies of scale within and between field missions by the Secretary-General is a welcome news. The assurance emanating from the Secretariat that particular circumstances pertaining to each peacekeeping operation were taken into account during budget preparation is also appreciated. But we would encourage the Secretariat to work towards furnishing sufficient information as to how these measures would be applied by each mission, including, where appropriate, any mitigating measures planned to ensure that there would be no impact on mandate implementation.

My delegation is pleased to note the positive developments recorded by the Secretariat in the human resources management reforms approved by the General Assembly in recent years to address a number of perennial problems faced by peacekeeping operations, including difficulties in staff recruitment and retention. Also staff mobility between missions to meet changing operational requirements and the impact of differing conditions of service. We look forward to further analytical reports on the impact of the implementation of the reforms to the General Assembly soon.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly has shown consistent support to the proposals of the Secretariat to embrace the information technology age by upgrading its information technology equipment in various forms. Significantly, the acquisition of an off-the-shelf software package for fuel management, an air operations information management and an electronic rations management systems were initiated for implementation between 2007 and 2009. But none of these systems has been implemented throughout the peacekeeping operations. My delegation is quite uneasy with the prolonged delays in the implementation of these electronic management systems and urges the Secretary-General to double efforts to elicit concrete positive outcomes without incurring additional budgetary resources. The same concern goes with the required interface between these systems and UMOJA.

The Secretary-General established the Strategic Air Operations Centre in the Global Service Centre, which was meant to improve the Secretariat's capacity to optimize the use of mission air assets for inter-mission flight tasks, and the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre (TMICC) in the Regional Service Centre, Entebbe, with a view to achieving integrated planning of personnel and cargo movements between missions in Africa. It had been observed that such an initiative would impact on lines of accountability for the management of air operations. The governance framework currently under development has been recommended by the ACABQ to effectively address these concerns and requested that more detailed information on the air transportation governance framework be provided in the next overview report of the Secretary-General. It is the view of my delegation too that the governance framework for air transportation should clearly define the lines of authority and accountability.

In his explanation to satisfy the General Assembly on the efforts made to strengthen accountability in peacekeeping operations, the Secretary-General stated that the Department of Field Support has taken a number of steps to address this requirement through its preparations for the implementation of IPSAS. Managers are to be made to be more accountable for the discharge of their responsibilities in both conduct and in the implementation of environmental policy in peacekeeping operations. It should be noted that while the ACABQ recognized that senior managers' compacts could develop into a powerful instrument of the accountability system, the Advisory Committee has yet to be convinced that the introduction of the Secretary-General's initiative has made any appreciable change. The Advisory Committee is of the view that such managerial accountability tools should be developed for the Organization as a whole and, in this regard, emphasises the need for coordination between the Department of Management and the Department of Field Support on initiatives in this area. My delegation cannot agree less.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General has submitted a progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy in compliance with the request of the General Assembly resolution 64/269. The objectives of the strategy, as set out in an earlier report of the Secretary-General (A/64/633), are to accelerate mission start-up and deployment, as well as to improve the quality and timeliness of delivery of services to field missions, while achieving greater efficiency and economies of scale. While the broad goals of the global field support strategy for transforming service delivery to field missions remain attractive, there are however difficulties in assessing progress made so far in the implementation of the global field support strategy, mainly owing to the timing and lack of detail in the progress report. My delegation would like to endorse the recommendation of the ACABQ that accurate, complete and transparent reporting of the strategy should be presented to the General Assembly annually.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding this address, my delegation will like to assure you of its readiness to work very vigorously and constructively with other Member States, Groups and the Secretariat on the way forward to achieving effective and efficient peacekeeping strategy.

Thank you.