

**Statement**  
**by**  
**H.E. Ambassador Aman Hassen**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal**  
**Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**  
**On**  
**Agenda Item 147: Financing of UNISFA for the**  
**period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.**

**At**  
**the Fifth Committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resumed 66<sup>th</sup>**  
**Session of the UN General Assembly**

*May, 2012*  
*New York*

**Mr. Chairman,**

I would like to thank Assistant Secretary General/Controller Mrs. Maria Eugene Casar, for introducing the report of the Secretary General contained in A/66/722 regarding the budget for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyie (UNISFA) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. My appreciation also goes to Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chair of the ACABQ for introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee contained in A/66/718/Add.12.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It has now been a year since the Security Council established UNISFA with a mandates to support the implementation of the June 20, 2011 Agreement. The Mission has continued to provide the sole military presence in the Abyie Area. Within this overall mandate, UNISFA is called up on to focus on the following activities:

- Provision of safe and secure environment that facilitate safe voluntary returns;
- Peaceful delivery of humanitarian aid;
- Provision of support force protection for the establishment of effective functioning of the safe demilitarized border zone, etc.

It is the view of all those who have observed the situation that UNISFA has been carrying out these obligations with commendable effectiveness and efficiency. So far:

- 50% of approximately 113,000 displaced persons have voluntarily returned to their place of origin,
- There was no incident of attacks against humanitarian actors,
- There was no reported incidents of inter-communal violence during the migration season,

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is to be recalled that the Security Council, in its Resolution 2024(2011) has expanded UNISFA's mandate to support the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. This new mandate has extended the Mission's area of operations. As the new task is expected to be undertaken within the current troop ceiling, it will definitely entail an increase in Mission support requirements.

The Government of Ethiopia and the United Nations, with the support of the two parties have played a crucial role to fully deployed the contingents expeditiously. This clearly shows my Government's strong commitment to the heavy responsibility that the UN has for peace between the two parties and to ensure that Abyie will not be a cause for further deterioration in relations between Sudan and South Sudan.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Starting from its establishment, the Mission has been facing serious logistical and other challenges. The fact that the area of operation covered is vast and without road infrastructure hinders smooth operations. No doubt, the situation requires an immediate solution. In this regard, the ACABQ'S recommendation for a reduction of the proposed budget is not realistic proposal. For obvious reasons, what the Mission needs is in effect for more enhanced support, in a whole range of areas: logistics, administrative, and technical. That is what is required to ensure that the Mission continues to discharge its mandate and responsibilities.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation looks forward to engaging constructively in the informal discussions on this important agenda item.

Thank you very much!