

**NIGERIAN DELEGATION STATEMENT MADE BY MR. FELIX
AYIBANUAH DATUOWEI, MINISTER AT THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE FINANCING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 1 JULY 2012 TO 30 JUNE 2013 DURING THE SECOND PART OF
THE RESUMED SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 10 May 2012)**

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Nigeria is appreciative of your dynamic leadership in providing guidance, focus and vision for the parliamentary responsibilities of the Fifth Committee.

Our thanks go to the Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, **Ms. Maria Eugenia Casar** for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, **Mr. Collen Kelapile** who introduced the related report of the ACABQ.

Mr. Chairman,

The Nigerian delegation is quite comfortable to align itself with the statement presented by the distinguished representative of Cote d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group on Financing of Peacekeeping Operations.

It would be recalled that the mandate of UNMISS was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1996 (2011) of 8 July 2011, for an initial period of one year. The budget proposal in the report of the Secretary-General for UNMISS for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, amounts to \$839,762,500 as compared to \$722,129,600 for the previous apportionment of 2011/12.

The resource requirements of the Security Council mandated Mission have been linked to results-based frameworks, organized according to components of peace consolidation and extension of state authority; conflict mitigation and protection of civilians; capacity-building; human rights; and support.

The analytical postulation of the Secretary-General in the overall situation in South Sudan in 2012/13, is that, it would remain challenging, influenced by continuing

insecurity in parts of the country, uncertain relations with the Sudan, recurring humanitarian needs and a fragile political process. My delegation is in full agreement with that assessment. We are further tempted in appreciation of the enormity of the challenges of the Mission to characterize the situation to that of a newly born baby in intensive care unit. As such, we are compelled to draw the attention of mandate implementing entities in charge of UMISS to assume the position of a crack medical team that is committed to resuscitating a patient in critical condition of survival.

Strengthening of the protection of civilians, building on the existing early warning system to effectively identify and defuse local-level tensions before they escalate into broader threats to the civilian population, and the deployments of military, police and civilian personnel to high risk areas are cardinal responsibilities of the Mission. Achieving these set goals will require considerable budgetary resources which should be provided as and when required. That is why the increased estimates in the next fiscal period is viewed positively by my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

The efforts of troop-contributing countries in the view of my delegation would need to be enhanced by providing funds that would facilitate the procurement of equipment and maintenance of the military and police personnel in the field. We are therefore restating the importance of troop costs early reimbursements. The report of \$50,000,000 borrowed from the peacekeeping reserve fund as at 15 March 2012 does not present a healthy state of affairs with the available resources. Payment of assessed contributions by Member States and funds management Secretariat should be addressed by Member States and the Secretariat respectively and seriously.

The mandate of all peacekeeping Missions will to a large extent be adjudged to have succeeded or otherwise depending on the degree of implementation of the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) by the Department of Field Support (DFS) after its introduction (strategy). The outcome of UNMISS will also be evaluated by the impact of the strategy on its operations. Since the delivery of field-based support will be supplemented by the establishment of transactional back-office processes in the Regional Service Centre at Entebbe, Uganda.

The audit report on the implementation of GFSS as was presented by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) a day earlier in this venue, was less rosy. The audit opinion on the governance, risk management and control processes of the

Department of Field Support expressed partial satisfaction with the implementation of the strategy.

On the other hand, the Board of Auditors in its assessment of planning, development and early roll-out identified risks to the successful delivery of the strategy.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on its part stated that it experienced difficulties in assessing progress made so far on the strategy.

In the opinion of my delegation, if the goals of the global field support strategy for transforming service delivery to field missions through greater use of common and shared services and global management of resources; improving timeliness and quality of service; enhancing the safety and living conditions of personnel; and achieving greater efficiency and economies of scale are to be realized, then DFS must attune itself to the six recommendations issued by the OIOS which found favour with it (DFS).

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is worried over the proposed abolition of 14 post in UNMISS, as the plan has not been transparently clarified. With the wobbling status of the global field support strategy, we are unsure of the effects the arbitrarily thought of reduction of posts will have on the mandate delivery. At the same time, the vacancy rate recorded in the Mission in paragraph 68 of the Secretary-General's report (A/66/733) is still too high. Efforts must be made to fill the vacancies.

To conclude this address, my delegation will reiterate that UNMISS is a huge challenge and the DFS should implement the recommendations from the audit bodies with renewed vigor and focus. My delegation is committed to join other delegates to deliberate on the intricate issues of the Mission to arrive at successful outcomes.

Thank you.

