

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. KODJOVI  
DOSSEH OF PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO ON  
AGENDA ITEM 132: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE  
BIENNIUM 2014-2015 ENTITLED STRATEGIC CAPITAL REVIEW AT THE  
FIRST RESUMED SESSION OF THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY-FIFTH COMMITTEE  
(New York, 13 March, 2015)**

---

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 132: Programme Budget for the biennium 2014-2015, entitled Strategic Capital Review.

The African Group would like to thank Stephen Cutts, Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Central Support Services, Department of Management as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu the Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the relevant reports A/69/760 and A/69/811 respectively. The Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of South Africa on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

At the outset, the Group align itself with the statement by the representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Group welcomes the progress made to date in-particular the efforts invested to undertake the pro-active steps to design a mechanism to ensure effective management of its buildings by introducing a process which will lead to development of a long-term capital maintenance programme for twenty years to come.

The African Group would like to reiterate the great interest and importance to the maintenance of the buildings at all United Nations duty stations in particular at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa and the United Nations Office at Nairobi as well as in various sub-regional offices. The Group has also noted with great concern that some of the buildings in these duty stations have greatly depreciated in value and their remaining useful life is just few years attracting substantial costs in refurbishments and threatening the life and health of delegates, visitor and staff. It is our hope that the ongoing review process will provide an effective mechanism to maintain buildings in all duty stations in particular those in Africa.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Group also believes that it is the responsibility of the Secretary General to ensure and guarantee safety of personnel in the various United Nations duty stations. Further, modernization and maintenance of property owned or managed by the system including replacement of offices and site infrastructure as well as renovation of buildings cannot be over emphasized. In this regard, industry norms and building codes relating to health, safety issues as well as compliance with requirements for people with special needs need to be adhered to.

The Group has further taken note of the fact that in the near-term projections, capital expenditure among other stations focuses on Economic Commission for Africa and United Nations Office in Nairobi. We urge the Secretary General to ensure that effective measures are in place to implement proposals in the final Strategic Capital Review report and that lessons learned and best practices in implementing similar capital projects are applied as appropriate and as widely as possible. The Group expects that in the next progress report will provide more clear details on fast tracking the whole process.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are prepared to examine a wide number of issues presented to the reports including those related to the budgeting for capital projects including the question of contingency funds, cost estimates, time-frame and oversight elements and we look forward to contribute to the extensive deliberations during our informal consultations.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you of the African Group's commitment to engage constructively in the negotiations on this important agenda item to ensure its timely conclusion.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**