

<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY  
MR. JUSTIN KISOKA, MINISTER COUNSELOR, THE PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON  
AGENDA ITEM 134: 134: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 2016-2017 IN  
PARTICULAR ESTIMATES RELATED ESTIMATES IN RESPECT OF SPECIAL  
POLITICAL MISSIONS THEMATIC CLUSTER I: SPECIAL AND PERSONAL  
ENVOYS AND SPECIAL ADVISERS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, OFFICE OF  
THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON BURUNDI, AT THE  
FIRST RESUMED PART OF SEVENTIETH SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY-  
FIFTH COMMITTEE  
(New York, 18th March, 2016)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 134: programme budget for biennium 2016-2017 in particular estimates in respect of special political missions, thematic cluster I: special and personal envoys and special advisers of the Secretary-General, Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Burundi,

At the outset the African Group would like to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas Assistant Secretary-General, Controller as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the respective reports on this subject.

The African Group would like to stress its strong commitment in consideration the proposal aimed at addressing the political challenges in Burundi and elsewhere in Africa in a most efficient and effective manner.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group has taken note of the Secretary- General's proposals on the financing of the activities related to the Office of the Special Advisor in the amount of US\$ 9.4 million to cover the activities of the office of the Special Advisor at the Under Secretary General level proposed to be based in New York and other staffing in Burundi in the total amount of forty-nine post.

The African Group is in full support of the deployment of additional United Nations team on the ground to complement the efforts of regional and sub-regional actors on addressing the political and security challenges in Burundi. Nonetheless, we have concerns on some aspects of the proposal which lacks clarity and justification in a number of areas.

The Group recalls that by its resolution 70/8 the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in paragraph 288 of its report A/70/16 which emphasized the need for the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to fully take into account the views, comments and/or input of the African Union and other regional and sub-regional mechanisms in their policy formulation and decision-making, mainly in the areas of mediation, conflict prevention and peace and security. In this regard, the African Group would like to remind Secretary-General the importance of respecting the terms of

the resolution adopted by the General Assembly when developing and submitting its proposals. We will also be interested to learn how the current proposal took into account the provisions of the said resolution.

The Group also recalls that the African Union Peace and Security Council noted with satisfaction the readiness of the members of the AU High Level Delegation to pursue their efforts, in support of the mediation efforts led by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, on behalf of the East African Community, particularly with regard to the need to ensure that all stakeholders in Burundi participate in the inclusive dialogue and actively preserve the gains of the Arusha Agreement.

The Group also notes that the AU Peace and Security Council also welcomed the recent visit by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Burundi, which falls within the framework of international efforts to further strengthen those led by Africa with a view to finding a lasting solution to the crisis in the Burundi.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group is also of view that, the proposal by the Secretary-General fails to inform the division of labor and the role of the multiple representatives of the Secretary-General whose mandate in one way or another addresses the situation in Burundi. For example the Secretary-General does not disclose information on division of labor related to the (i) UN Office in Central Africa, (ii) UN Office at the Great Lakes, (iii) UN Office at the African Union (iv) the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and (v) the UN Country Team-all these at the lead at the level of Under Secretary-General.

Apart from the UN structure, the proposal should have present information on the full involvement of all regional and sub regional involved in the same activities, including East African Community, the African Union and the Secretariat of the Great Lakes Region.

In addition, the Group has learnt that, the title of the envoy is the Special Advisor on Conflict Prevention including Burundi. In this regard, the Group notes that this mandates goes beyond the situation in Burundi. We will be interested to learn the clarification on this element during our informal consultations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group recalls that East Africa Community Summit appointed H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda as the East African Community mediator for the inter-Burundi dialogue. The Group also recalls that at its 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit, the African Community summit of heads of states and government appointed H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania to facilitate the mediation under the leadership of President Museveni. The Group will be interested to learn how the current proposal complements the work of the regional and sub-regional actors. The African Group will be seek clarification and provision for the support and linkages to the work of the East African Community.

With regard to the proposed staffing structure, the Group believes that the proposed structure should have taken into account the already existing structure in the UN system as well as at the regional and sub-regional level.

Turning to the international support for Burundi, the African Groups is disappointed by those stakeholders who cancelled or suspended the development programme for Burundi. The African Group, expects that all the commitment by partners will be re-instated without any condition so as to facilitate the development aspiration of the Burundians.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The success of the United Nations operation in Burundi and elsewhere mostly depends on the credibility, impartiality and professionalism of its staff. In this regard, the Group would like to request the Secretary-General to ensure the team to be deployed in Burundi strictly observes these basic principle.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you the African Group will examine the proposal carefully and in good faith with the aim of ensuring approval of only essential team of experts which will work with the government of the Burundi and regional actors. We will have requests for a number of clarifications and believe the Secretariat will be sufficiently responsive and in a timely manner. We look forward to present a proposal for efficient, effective and professional team that would not seek to extend its existence beyond.

**I thank you Mr. Chairman.**