

<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY
MR. JUSTIN KISOKA, MINISTER COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ON THE AGENDA ITEM 134 PROPOSED PROGRAMME
BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 2016-2017: ESTIMATES IN RESPECT OF
SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS, GOOD OFFICES AND OTHER
POLITICAL INITIATIVES AUTHORIZED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND/OR THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THEMATIC CLUSTER II:
SANCTIONS MONITORING TEAMS, GROUPS AND PANELS
[New York, 4th November, 2015]**

Mr. Chairman,

I have to honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 134 proposed program budget for biennium 2016-2017 in particular estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, thematic cluster II-sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels.

At the outset, the Group wishes to thank Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General, the Controller for introducing the Secretary General's report on this agenda item, as well as Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the related report.

Consideration of the proposals related to financing of the special political missions is one of our Group's priorities as the elements of mediation, conflict prevention and resolution are on top of the Africa's agenda

Mr. Chairman,

The Group has taken note that of the proposed resource requirements for 2016 for the 14 special political missions under thematic cluster II amount to \$34.54 million, representing a decrease of \$1.40million compared with the resources approved for 2015.

The Group also notes that no extra-budgetary resources were requested in 2015 or are projected for the Group of Experts for 2016, except for the Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group notes with encouragement that, as of end of September this year, most of the positions have been filled, and encourages the Secretary General to continue his efforts to ensure all the remaining posts are filled expeditiously and in full compliance with the principles of gender balance and equitable geographical representation.

The Group also notes that for year 2016, there will be no change to the approved staffing structure of all the Groups of Experts.

The Group notes also that no provision under consultants is proposed for 2016 under cluster II, reflecting the efforts made to reduce reliance on external consultants as well as to recruitment of experts with the requisite professional and language skills. The Group welcomes continued efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the results-based budgeting, the African Group welcomes the efforts by the Department of Political Affairs to harmonize to the extent possible, expected accomplishment, indicators of achievements and outputs as well as ensuring consistency in performance measures and management and we encourage the continued efforts in this regard.

The Group will be interested to learn in detail the composition of the different expert groups, designation process, and cost effectiveness for operational costs as well as highlights on the need to rely more on home based expert groups. We will also be interested to learn the clarity on the support provided by the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Safety and Security, and the Department of Field Support to the work of the Panel of Experts.

The African Group would like to stress the importance of consultation, collaboration and partnership among key stakeholders including the concerned countries, regional and sub-regional organizations on the work related to this cluster. In this regard we emphasize the need for the United Nations to continue to partner with the African Union and other sub-regional organizations on the work conducted in the area. The Group will be interested to learn on the efforts to strengthen the existing arrangements in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude my remarks, allow me to reaffirm the African Group position on the 'question of funding and backstopping arrangement of the special political missions'. As we stated in our opening statement, the Group will be interested to join other delegations to address the pending issue of funding and backstopping of the special political missions. It is our strong expectation that, this matter is going to be concluded by the end of our main session and by consensus. Business as usual approach on this matter is not the best option for us. Our Group stands ready to contribute innovative ideas to address this issue during our informal consultations.

We look forward for constructive deliberations with the aim of concluding this part of the agenda item in a timely manner.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.