

<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 CLUSTERS I: SPECIAL  
AND PERSONAL ENVOYS AND SPECIAL ADVISERS AND III: UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICES, PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT OFFICES, INTEGRATED  
OFFICES AND COMMISSIONS, NEW YORK,  
[New York, 1 December, 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 in particular thematic clusters I and III.

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

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Group wishes to reiterate the importance it attaches to the vital role special political missions( SPMs) continue to play in fostering international peace and security through early warning, mediation, preventive diplomacy, support to electoral process, good office and peacebuilding efforts.

The varied and complex mandates of SPMs are often delivered in situations of active and in post-conflicts environment. Increasingly today, most of the SPMs operate in environments where transnational organized crime and drug trafficking and extremist activities constitute the main drivers of instability. In this regard, the African Group strongly believes that the allocation of adequate resources to the SPMs is a critical element for the efficient and effective discharge of their given mandates.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With regard to the resource requirement, the Group has taken note that proposed resource for 2016 for 10 SPMs under thematic cluster I, with the exception of the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, amount to \$31.3 million representing an increase of \$834,200 compared with the allocation for 2015. We have also noted that the proposed resource requirements for 2016 for eight SPMs under cluster III in the amount of US\$ 190.1 million representing an increase of \$7.1 million from the allocation for 2015.

The Group is mindful that staffing form a major part of the inputs for the SPMs performance and we have taken a good not of the proposed requirement for 2016. The Group will be interested to learn the rationale for some changes in the staffing in particular in Libya, Grate Lakes and Guinea Bissau. Furthermore the Group will be interested to learn the rationale for some movement of staffing from one location to another during our informal consultations.

The African Group will be examining in details of the other key elements including those related to vacancy management, consultancy, a degree of automaticity in the requests under operational costs in particular procurement matters, information and technology, repairs and maintenance, in some Mission specific during our informal consultations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Turning to the specific question on the level of representation on the Sahel, the African Group remain deeply concerned that the grade of the Special envoy of the Secretary General for the Sahel remains at the same level despite the working under complex and evolving environment and we are not convinced by the arguments put forward so far. The Group will present specific proposal to re-instate the original level of representation at the Under Secretary-General level on this office as well as strengthening specific functions to enable the Office deliver its given mandate. The Group rejects any double standard to the level of representation to this and other SPMs.

The African Group is encouraged by degree of collaboration between the various SPMs in particular those in Africa and the respective regional and sub-regional organization and we would like to underscore the importance of the utilization of local knowledge and expertise so as to strengthen national and regional capacities. Therefore, the Group expresses concerns related to the

increased requirements on the reliance of consultancies and other outside capacities in the SPMs in particular those in Africa and we will proposed specific adjustments as appropriate.

In conclusion I would like to assure you that the Group will pay attention to a number of issues in the financing the SPMs and we will seek specific clarification on a number of specific elements during informal consultations. We look forward to constructive deliberations with the aim of concluding this part of the agenda item in a timely manner.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman**