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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY MR. JUSTIN KISOKA, MINISTER COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT  
MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS ON THE ORGANISATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH  
COMMITTEE, DURING THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTIETH SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
[New York, 8 October, 2015]**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly. I would like to pay special thanks to the representatives of Algeria and Togo for the work done to coordinate our Group's interests in the Committee and we wish them best of luck in their new assignments.

2. At the outset, the African Group would like to congratulate Amb. Durga Prasad BHATTARAI, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations and all others members of the bureau on your election. We are confident that through your able leadership, experience and good track record you will successfully guide the work of the Committee to ensure that it delivers on its work with efficiency and effectiveness.

3. The Group would also like to express deep appreciation to the outgoing Bureau for the excellent work done under the guidance of Amb. František RUŽIČKA, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovakia to the United Nations.

4. The African Group fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. Chairman,**

5. With regard to the organisation of work of the Committee, the African Group would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the programme of work and welcomes the designation of Coordinators to facilitate the various agenda items that are to be considered during this session.

6. The Group has taken note that, the Committee is expected to consider over 141 reports in about 14 agenda items and a number of subjects-a

heavy workload for all of us. The Group has also taken note with appreciation that, a number of the reports have been issued to-date and we would like to encourage continued efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that remaining reports are issued on time so as to facilitate smooth discharge of the Committee's responsibilities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. During this Session, our Group will, pay close attention, to among others, the budget performance, budget proposals and related special subjects including pension system, capital projects at the Economic Commission for Africa and in Geneva-*the SHP*, proposal on global service delivery model, subvention on the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone and financing special political missions including the questions of separate account/funding and backstopping arrangement.

The Group will also follow closely issues related to common system, financing of tribunals and residual mechanism, scale of assessment and additional financing for mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Furthermore, our Group will examine in detail implementation of a number of mandates related to issues of our interests including those related to the United Nations Office at the African Union as well as specific staff issues and administrative elements at the Economic Commission for Africa, tribunals and residual mechanism.

8. African Group will also be interested to learn on the arrangements in place for the initial implementation of the new important mandates including those related to Financing for Development and the Sustainable Development Goals so as to be factored in in the budget proposal to be considered by this Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,**

9. Turning to the scale of assessment on the apportionment of expenses of the United Nations, in particular Article 19 of the Charter, the African Group would like to stress the need for speedy decision on this matter to enable the concerned Member States to fully participate in the General Assembly work. We believe that the Committee will conclude the informal on this matter today.

10. In conclusion, the African Group would like to stress its long standing position that negotiations in this Committee be conducted in an open, inclusive, transparent manner and within the official allocated time. We would like to assure you of our Group's readiness to engage constructively with other delegations during the Committees deliberations, with a view to achieving positive outcomes on all agenda items under consideration in a timely manner-and before Christmas holidays.

I thank you, **Mr. Chairman**