

**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 FIRST RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTIETH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY-FIFTH COMMITTEE
(Monday 29th February, 2016)**

Mr. Chairman

I have to honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on the organization of work of the first resumed part of the United Nations General Assembly-Fifth Committee.

At the outset, allow me to welcome back all Members of the Committee, Officials of the Secretariat and the Organization as well as those who facilitate our daily work. I believe you had a wonderful break, if any after the successful conclusion of the main part in December, last year.

The Africa Group aligns itself with the statement as delivered by the representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman

The Committee has only one month for this Session and it is the African Group's sincere desire to complete our task within the time frame allocated. It is trusted that the negotiations will again be conducted in good faith and as part of an intergovernmental process and that the Committee will extend the gains achieved during the main part to facilitate smooth consideration and conclusions of our assignment.

We would like to remind on the need for the Committee to strictly abide by the principles of inclusiveness, openness, and transparency in conducting our negotiations. Closed door business under small configuration is highly discouraged.

The Group wishes to thank the Bureau for the preparation of the programme of work, which we believe will be adjusted to reflect progress in the negotiations. We have also taken note on the status of documentations and we believe those lagging behind will invest additional efforts to ensure the timely availability of documents to the Committee.

With regard to the agenda items to be considered this session, the Group has taken note of the increasing workload during this first resumed part as compared to the previous sessions while the allocated time remained unchanged. The Group believes on the need for application of innovative ideas to address and conclude all the items before the Committee in a timely fashion.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group is determined to ensure that the Committee conclude all items in particular those which have been good candidatures for deferment. Specifically the Group is looking forward to conclude the famous "funding and back-stopping arrangement of the SPMs, as well as the "operational arrangement of the Advisory Committee. We will not subscribe to any ideas that bring the business as usual to these

items. We believe that the Committee will benefit from the inputs gained from the General Assembly event by the PGA on making the 70th anniversary of the ACABQ. The African Group is prepared to do its part and we encourage other to do the same.

With regard to reports on human resource management, the Group is mindful of the fact that the main part of 71st session will be highly dedicated to this item. We are also aware of the unfortunate situation when the Committee failed to conclude the items during the 69th session. The Group remain open to consider ideas on how to proceed with this important item.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the important question of funding the agenda 2030 and outcome of the Addis Ababa Action agenda, the African Group is seriously disappointed that the Secretary General to date has not prioritized and presented the proposal on funding for these two mandates as called for by the General Assembly.

We are more disappointed that the process to consolidate inputs from key stakeholders including funds, programmes and specialized agencies seems to be lost somewhere and that a number of issues need to be addressed at this stage.

Furthermore we are concerned lack of common understanding among the UN system organizations and departments on the way to address the matter.

The African Group would like to stress that, the approach by the Secretary-General and his team on these matter will be used to evaluate himself and the senior managers' performance and not the number of overseas trips he and his managers have embarked on during his and/their time in the Office.

The Group will seek a number of specific clarifications on this matter during the informal consultations and we will present proposal on specific course of action as appropriate.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the African Group would like to re-assure you of our commitment to participate effectively on all the agenda items in particular those related to Board of Auditors, revised estimates in the Department of Political Affairs and in the Special Political Missions; strengthening property management and progress in Capital projects including at the Addis Ababa and Arusha; accountability in the Organization; management of the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), condition of service of ACABQ and of course question of funding and backstopping arrangement of the SPMs.

We look forward for constructive deliberations of these and other matters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman