

<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

**REMARKS 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 OTHER MATTERS, AT THE FIRST RESUMED PART OF
SEVENTIETH SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE
(New York, 10th March, 2016)**

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you Chair for giving me the floor to speak on behalf of the African Group on other matters related to administrative and budgetary question.

The Group would like to express its very serious concern regarding the alarming practice of the Secretary-General to utilize the organization's resources to finance activities and programs that are controversial and lack any consensus among member states, let alone the lack of any language supporting such activities in any internationally agreed document.

Specifically we would like to express its serious concern on the introduction, printing and circulation of the postage stamps of the “free and equal campaign” under the United Nations. The printing, circulation and promotion of such stamps not only are a serious precedent but also it is contrary to the principle of the organization and violate culture, norms and beliefs of many of the Member States, and casts a shadow on the correct adherence to proper procedures and the rules and regulations governing the utilization of the UN logo and resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group demands the immediate cessation of the campaign, and requests the implementation of accountability measures including recovery of the funds used to finance the development and implementation of the campaign including the printing and circulation of the said postage stamps.

The African Group also demands that the Secretary General provides details relating to the funds utilized to finance the aforementioned campaign and the rules and regulations governing the use of the UN logo as quickly as possible.

We also request that, this statement be included in the Official record of this meeting.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman