

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY MR. ABDALLAH BACHAR BONG, 1ST COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM IN THE UN SECRETARIAT AT THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 9 MARCH 2017)

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on the Accountability system in the UN Secretariat.

2. The Group would like to thank Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management, for introducing the Secretary-General's report (A/70/668) and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing its related report.

I would also like to thank Mr. Gopinathan Achamkulangare, Inspector, Joint Inspection Unit for introducing the report of the joint inspection Unit on fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations, as well as Mr. Kenneth Herman, Senior Advisor on Information management Policy Coordination in the United Nations, CEB for introducing the note of the Secretary-General as chair on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Madam Chair,

3. At the outset, the African Group welcomes the progress made in efforts to strengthen the accountability framework of the United Nations, classified under two

main themes namely: (1) Monitoring and oversight mechanisms; (2) Managing risk and performance and, wishes to re-echo the importance of external and internal oversight bodies to the provision of reasonable assurance with regard to adequate resource utilization, the safeguarding of assets, reliable financial reporting and compliance with relevant regulations, rules and policies that engender accountability and better management.

4. In this regard, the Group underscores the benefits to the Secretariat, of the observations and recommendations of oversight bodies, particularly in respect of completed and ongoing transformational projects and wishes to commend actions taken to strengthen accountability in the following seven key areas of management: (a) enterprise risk management; (b) the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework of the United Nations Secretariat; (c) the statement on internal control; (d) internal controls in the procurement process; (e) accountability and field missions; (f) ethical standards; and (g) the performance of personnel.

6. The Group particularly want to commend the JIU for the exemplary work done by highlighting areas of strength and weaknesses and proposes 16 recommendations to the executive heads and legislative bodies, in order to improve the overall effectiveness of the United Nations system organizations in combating fraud. The Group sees the merit of the recommendations proposed and calls on the United System to implement them.

Madam Chair,

7. The Group takes note of the role of Umoja in increasing the availability of financial information for the management of common support services such as a) budget and finance including peacekeeping operations; and in this regard encourages

the Secretary General to fully take advantage of the system to improve accountability.

8. The group will keenly examine how the Accountability and monitoring framework that has been designed will help managers achieve their human resources management objectives with regard to a number of indicators, with emphasis on the five strategic indicators, related to gender equality, geographical representation, vacancy rates, staffing timeline and performance management compliance.

9. The group will further examine how the central support services which encompass a real estate module, travel management, procurement, technology and data management as well as global guidelines for the management of construction projects can also strengthen accountability using the same system.

Madam Chair,

10. The G77 and China Recalls General Assembly resolution 70/255 in which a request is reiterated to the Secretary-General to take further, concrete measures to develop capacity for evaluation within the Secretariat programmes, with support provided by OIOS and external oversight bodies and calls for intensified efforts in the implementation of the enterprise risk management framework across all Peacekeeping operations.

11. The group commends the initiative to vet military and police contingent personnel including all personnel deployed at peacekeeping and special political missions, as a measure to ensure that personnel previously found to have committed misconduct do not serve again in the United Nations and looks forward to the

development of a single system-wide tracking system that would cover all forms of misconduct thereby ensuring a comprehensive and consistent system.

Madam Chair,

12. The Group stands ready to engage actively and constructively with the other delegations during informal consultations on this agenda item with an aim to reaching a conclusion in a timely manner.

I thank you, Madam Chair.