

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. ABDALLAH BACHAR BONG, 1ST COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE MODALITIES FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOCIATIONS OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION AT THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 10 MARCH 2017)

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on the Programme Budget Implications of the draft resolution on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

2. The Group would like to thank Mr. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and controller, for introducing the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/71/19) and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing its related report.

Madam Chair,

3. At the outset, the African Group attaches a crucial importance to the migration issues. As stated in the New York Declaration adopted last September, our world is witnessing today an unprecedented level of human mobility. Our responsibility is therefore to ensure that our response to this matter be at the level of the challenges we are facing.

4. For this reason, the African Group supported the call by the Secretary General for the holding of an intergovernmental Conference in 2018 on international migration, during which we would adopt global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. The African Group firmly defended this proposal during the negotiations of the New York Declaration and played a key role in ensuring an equal treatment of migration and refugees in the final document.

5. The African Group firmly believes that the 2018 Conference will be a major milestone in the field of migration. It will be the very first major UN Conference on this issue. Furthermore, the Global compact, which will be adopted, will be the very first UN document that will tackle all aspects of international migration.

Madam Chair,

6. The Group takes note of the statement of the Secretary General on the Programme Budget Implications of the draft resolution on the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

7. The Group also takes note that the potential cost implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation can't be estimated before the adoption of the modality resolution. While we also note that, based on the statement of the Secretary General, submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, the adoption of the resolution A/70/L.58, will generate additional resource requirements in the amount of \$1,244,700 for 2017 and represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2016-2017.

8. The African Group calls for funding of the Conference and its preparatory process through the UN regular budget, and the voluntary trust fund should

cover the travel and participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries.

9. The African Group expects also that the appointed yesterday Special Representative of the Secretary-General for international Migration will provide the necessary guidance in addressing the Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants.

10. In conclusion, the Group stands ready to engage actively and constructively during informal consultations on this agenda item with an aim to reaching a conclusion in a timely manner.

I thank you,