

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. ABDALLAH BACHAR BONG, COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 134: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017, SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT, AT MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(New York, 30 November 2016)

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

2. The Group thanks Ms. Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas, Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General A/71/534 on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for presenting the key findings, contained in the committee report A/71/632.

Madam Chair,

3. The 2030 Agenda and the AAAA provide historic opportunity to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, with the vital support from the UN System to member states, particularly to developing countries in the implementation, evaluation and follow up processes of the two agendas. In this regards, resource requirement to meet these expectations should be considered very seriously.

4. The Group takes note of the latest proposal by the Secretary-General, and underscores, despite this long period of time, over a year since the adoption of the 2 Agendas, and the implementation date of 1 January 2016, the United Nations System appears to be struggling to understand its critical and recognized role in supporting Member States to incorporate the Agendas into their national and regional development plans.

5. The Group has closely monitored the different approaches put forward by the Secretary-General since his first report and expresses its serious concerns regarding the lack of a comprehensive plan and clear direction on the way forward. Instead we are faced with uncertainty and delays in delivering on key intergovernmental mandates.

6. The Group stresses that the lessons learned during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Summit and other internationally agreed outcomes needed to be taken into account in the long-established processes of elaboration and adoption of budgets.

7. The Group is of the view that core activities related to United Nations support for the mandates of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Plan need clear and well-reasoned elaboration in the specific budget proposals of the Secretary-General. The Group, however, also notes that the Agendas are to be mainstreamed across all the activities of the Organization and this budget proposal should not be seen as exhaustive or once-off in nature.

8. We will be also interested to learn how the Secretariat will strengthen the interaction between the Economic and Social Council with the Peacebuilding Commission and utilize its operational or humanitarian segments to review development, peace and humanitarian issues, addressing those aspects related to the 2030 Agenda.

Madame Chair,

9. On specifics, the Group notes with concern the lack of coherent funding proposals for the regional commissions, in particular the absence of any proposal for countries in special situations, the Regional Commission for Africa, as well as the absence of UNCTAD in the latest report. We will seek further clarification during the informal consultations on these critical elements for the Group that need to be taken on board.

10. The Group will further seek clarity on how the Secretariat will strengthen the UN Statistical Commission, in order to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data.

11. The Group further expects the Secretariat to provide support for the strengthening of capacity at the regional and national levels; as well as the need for strengthened system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to the implementation of the new Agenda by the United Nations development system.

12. The Group will also be interested to learn more about the implication of the current budgetary proposal for the implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017, as well as the projection for the adoption and implementation of an investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

Madame Chair,

13. To achieve our joint goals, we underline the importance of an adequately resourced, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system in the support for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

14. This agenda is no longer business as usual. We will all be held accountable for the success and delivery of the commitments made in the two Agendas. The African Group therefore calls on the Secretary General elected to address the queries of member states in a comprehensive manner.

15. In conclusion, the African group reiterates its long-standing position of constructive engagement with all member states for a consensual outcome on this agenda item.

I thank you