

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY MR ABDALLAH BACHAR BONG, COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 134: PROGRAMME BUDGET: BIENNIUM 2016-2017: GLOBAL SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 13 December 2016)

**Madam Chairperson,**

1. Thank you for giving me the floor. This statement aligns to the statement delivered by the Distinguished Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group 77 and China.

2. Allow me also to thank Mr. Yukio Takasu, Under Secretary-General for management, for introducing the Secretary-General report on Global Service Delivery Model of the United Nations, as well as Mr. Carlos Riu Massieu, the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the analysis and recommendations.

**Madam Chairperson,**

3. As we know in its resolution A/70/248, section XIX, the General Assembly requested the Secretary General to finalize a detailed proposal regarding the Global Service Delivery including a detailed cost-benefit analysis containing information on qualitative and quantitative benefits.

4. The Report before us proposes, for 2018-2019, the initial consolidation of services in six locations, among those listed are some of the most expensive ones. This defeats the very purpose and principals on which the GSDM is based and will not lead to reduction of resources required for service Delivery. In this regard, the proposals of establishing service hubs in the most expensive duty station must be revisited.

5. We believe the Committee will evaluate the options proposed by the Secretary General and interrogate whether the proposed high-cost locations will in reality help the organization to save resources and reduce its operational costs.

6. It is also clear that the assessed outcomes included in the Report are not comprehensive, and that this makes it impossible to reach a clear conclusion. In fact, we believe that this approach will not lead to meaningful quantitative benefits, and therefore the Proposal should be revised to provide detailed proposals.

7. In Resolution 70/248 A the General Assembly reiterated that the Global Service Delivery Model should be limited to the provision of administrative support services and that the proposal should take into account the use of all existing United Nations infrastructure, including those away from Headquarters. It is our hope that with over 70% of the Peace Keeping Missions based in Africa, the bulk of the host site for the provision of Support services will also be based in Africa.

8. In the same way, the Group reiterates <sup>that it is</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>to</sup> important ~~first need of building~~ synergies and consolidation of the Global Field Support Strategy with the Support services in the Peace Keeping and Department of Field Services before attempting to extend them to the entire UN Secretariat.

**Madam Chairperson,**

9. We need to consider all the reform initiatives in the UN Secretariat, which would be naturally impact on the exercise of introducing the Global Service Delivery Model.

10. In this respect, it is important to know whether the Report has carefully considered the repercussions that GSDM would have on the personnel, and the overall organizational culture, and the mitigation measures that have been put in place. We should also be mindful of the impact of this exercise on United Nations staff.

**Madam Chairperson,**

11. In our opinion, the Report falls short on meeting the General Assembly requirements, because it did not provide a thorough realignment of all regulations, rules, and procedures, in a bottom-up approach.

12. Lastly, It is paramount to maximize synergies in a proactive manner, with key ongoing United Nations Secretariat business transformation initiatives, especially the Umoja and the Global Field support strategy.

13. Our group wishes to assure you of its willingness to engage constructively in the deliberations of this important agenda item.

I thank you.