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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY  
MR. BACHAR BONG ABDALLAH, OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE  
ORGANISATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, DURING THE  
MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
(New York, 29 September, 2016)**

**Madam Chair,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

At the outset, the African Group would like to congratulate Amb. Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations for her appointment as the Chair of this Committee. We are proud that our Committee will be in the hands of able female leadership for the next one year. The Group would also like to extend our congratulations to the rest of the members of the Bureau on their appointment. We also appreciate the high level of gender representation in the current Bureau configuration and we encourage continued approach in this regard.

The African Group would like to re-assure you Madam Chair and the rest of the Bureau our continued commitment to support you in discharging given responsibilities with efficiency and effectiveness.

The Group would also like to express deep appreciation to the outgoing Bureau for the excellent work done under the guidance of Amb. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Permanent Representative of the Nepal to the United Nations.

The African Group fully aligns itself with the remarks just delivered by the representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and we have few remarks to make.

**Madam Chair,**

With regard to the organization of work of the Committee, the African Group would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the draft programme of work and welcomes the designation of Coordinators to facilitate the various agenda items that are to be considered during this part of the session.

The Group has taken note that, the Committee is expected to consider a number voluminous documents related to dozens of agenda items----as usual, a heavy workload for all of us. The Group has also taken note with appreciation that, a number of the reports have been issued to-date and we would like to encourage continued efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that remaining reports are issued on time so as to facilitate smooth discharge of our responsibilities.

**Madam Chair,**

The African Group would like to remind the Committee that, --this is the Human Resources Management year. And as the human resources constitute the most valuable assets to the Organization, it's our strongest expectation that the human resources management and related agenda justify to be given top priorities in this session. The Group is not prepared to leave this campus without finalizing the decision on this agenda. We believe the Bureau will be generous to prioritize this matter and reflect in the programme of work.

Apart from human resources management agenda, during this part of the session, our Group will, pay close attention to matters related to pension and common system, pending home work on financing agenda 2030 and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, implementation of business transformation and capital projects in particular at the Africa Hall at the Economic Commission for Africa and financing of the special political missions (SPMs) including the proposal on the

strengthening the United Nations Office at the African Union as well as unfinished business on the question of funding and backstopping arrangement of the SPMs. The Group will also examine in details oversight matters under the Board of Auditors, Office for Internal Oversight Services and Joint Inspection Unit, and financing for the peacekeeping missions in particular MINUSMA, UNMISS, MONUSCO and UNOCI if presented.

Furthermore, our Group will examine in detail implementation of a number of mandated activities related to issues of our Group interests and pay close attention on other issues of common interests.

**Madam Chair,**

Turning to the scale of assessment on the apportionment of expenses of the United Nations, in particular Article 19 of the Charter, the African Group would like to stress the need for speedy decision on this matter to enable the concerned Member States to fully participate in the General Assembly work. We believe that the Committee will conclude the informal on this matter this morning.

The African Group believed that, the timely conclusion of the work of this Committee and other intergovernmental bodies heavily depend on among other the behavior of the delegates and delegations. The African Group has been following closely the discussions by some small number of delegations on the working method of this Committee including the regular extension of the programme of work beyond official allocated timeframe. While we share the views that there are challenges in the work of the Committee, as the case for many other intergovernmental bodies, the Group don't believe on some thinking and approach being undertaken by some of the colloques including those who wrote to the Chair of the Fifth Committee or Office of the President of the General Assembly.

The African Group strongly believed that collective hard working, constructive engagement, dedication and sacrifice remain one of the viable solution on challenges we face. We are prepared to do our part including sacrificing our time for the betterment of the people we serve.

In conclusion, the African Group would like to stress its long standing position that negotiations in this Committee be conducted in an open, inclusive, transparent manner and within the official allocated time. We would like to assure you of our Group's readiness to engage constructively with a view to achieving positive outcomes on all agenda items under consideration in a timely fashion.

**I thank you,**