

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. ABDALLAH BACHAR BONG, 1ST COUSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE ORGANISATION OF WORK OF THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. (New York, 6 March 2017)

Madam Chairperson,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on the organization of work of the first part of the seventy first resumed Session of the Fifth Committee.

2. Allow me to start by welcoming you madam Chair and the members of the Bureau for your leadership guiding our work, distinguished delegates, the Secretariat, and all our friends' interpreters, sound engineers, back to the works of the fifth Committee. I hope that we all enjoyed the well-deserved break and that we are rejuvenated to continue with the achievements made during the main part of the seventy first session. May we continue in this regard, and conclude within the timeframe given.

Madam Chairperson,

3. The Africa Group fully aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the chair of the G77 and China for leading the Group of 77 and China and wish a successful year ahead for all of us.

4. The Group wishes also to specially thank the Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres and his team for the leadership shown since the beginning of his mandate and hopes for new and innovative ideas towards a more ambitious and dynamic secretariat by providing the

necessary assistance to member states in the implementation of critical agendas endorsed by the main bodies of the UN, while also ensuring a transparent, efficient and more representative secretariat, taking duly into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution in all sphere of activities

Madam Chairperson,

5. With regards to the Agenda items before us, the submitted programme of work includes issues of great importance to the Africa Group. These entail the Accountability system in the UN Secretariat; Procurement; Modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration; UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER); Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals-Arusha Construction; Resident coordinator system; ICT; Standards of accommodation for air travel and last but not least After Service Health Insurance, the JIU reports. In sum all the agenda items.

6. The Group wishes to express its appreciation for the time spent and effort put into the preparation of the reports especially the report on Procurement which is a very important issue for the Africa Group, especially the increment of opportunities for vendors from developing countries.

7. On the issue of accountability madam chair, we wish to also note that you will have our active participation on this issue in order to come out with an outcome for the benefit and efficiency of this Organization. We can all concur that an effective, efficient and transparent Secretariat will always enhance the trust and cooperation of its Member States.

8. On UNMEER, the Group believes that the lessons learned will require an adequate response, in particular a need to strengthen the global coordination and enhance the prevention mechanisms, the

capacities of local authorities, and improvement of the communication tools.

Madam Chairperson,

9. We only have one month for this session and it is the Africa Groups sincere desire to complete our task within the time frame allocated and even before. We entrust our faith in you once again that the negotiations will be conducted in good faith and as part of an inter-governmental process. The Group would also like to reiterate its request, as per the previous sessions that no parallel meetings be held, as most of our delegations are small in number and cannot afford to be in two or three meetings at the same time.

10. The Group does not subscribe to any sort of negotiations in small configurations behind closed doors. Here, we specially call the attention of the facilitators to take all the necessary measures to avoid this practice. We are convinced that you will ensure that these principles are adhered to, by all.

11. On this note madam Chair, the Africa Group reiterates its commitment to collaborate on all agenda items and to actively and constructively engage in formal and informal negotiations. We are certain that the negotiations will lead to a satisfactory conclusion for the Organization and all its Member States.

I thank you.