

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY AMBASSADOR,  
H.E. AMBASSADOR ISMAEL ABRAÃO GASPAR MARTINS, PLENIPOTENTIARY AND  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS, ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE FOR THE  
MAIN PART OF THE 72<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(New York, 5 October 2017)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on the organization of work of the Fifth Committee for the main part of the 72<sup>nd</sup> session of the General Assembly. Our Group fully aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and we would like to make a few additional remarks.

We wish to congratulate you, Ambassador Tommo Monthé, on your election as the Chairman of Our Committee for the Seventy Second Session. With the advantage of having been a Fifth Committee expert and an ACABQ Member, we are particularly pleased to see you chairing the Committee and have full confidence that under your able leadership and guidance the committee will reach a successful and timely conclusion in its work. We would also like to extend our congratulations to all other members of the Bureau on their election. Our Group would like to assure you that you can count on the support and cooperation of the Group throughout the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session.

Allow me also to pay a special tribute to the Bureau for the achievements made during the 71<sup>st</sup> Session under the leadership of former Chairperson, Ambassador Ingha Rhonda King of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, for the excellent work done during the previous session.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The 72<sup>nd</sup> session is a budget year which, therefore, means that the Committee faces great challenges ahead in dealing with a workload that is becoming increasingly heavy and complex as reports continue to pouring-in and discussion get lengthy. The Group therefore calls on the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee to ensure that Member States receive

reports well in advance so that they may have sufficient time to consider the work before them and make informed decisions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With regards to the Agenda items before us, the submitted programme of work includes issues of great importance to the Africa Group, such as the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019; Resident Coordinator System; Administration of Justice; construction and property management; the United Nations common system.

During this session, our Group will also pay close attention, not only to the budgetary proposals, but also will be examining many issues including procedures, performance comparators and processes on the implementation of mandate. The Group has taken note that issues related to human resource management and special political missions as well as UNAMID and MINUJUSTH are some parts of the heavy agenda.

The African Group would like to emphasize that proposals related to financing of the two peacekeeping operations ~~to~~ be considered by the Committee on time, without any delay and taking into account the challenges facing these specific peacekeeping operations.

Furthermore, the Group will examine the possibilities of enhancing the capacity of the ACABQ, taking into consideration their increased workload. Increasing the number of members of the committee, in a manner that would ensure fair participation of Africa in the context of striving for equitable geographical representation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The African Group would like to reaffirm its position that, negotiations in this Committee be conducted in the spirit of open, inclusive, transparent manner and within the formally official allocated timeframe. In this regard, the Group is not going to subscribe to any sort of small configuration in the closed doors. We would like to assure you, Mr. Chairperson, of our commitment in abiding with established principles of the Organization. We are convinced that you will ensure that these principles are adhered to.

Regarding 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 to enable concerned countries to fully participate in the General Assembly work.

Finally, the Africa Group stresses the importance of respecting existing mechanisms for negotiations and the sovereign right of every Member State to pronounce their view on the budgetary and administrative functioning of the Organization. The Group wishes to further underline the principle of conducting negotiations in a transparent manner, rather than in small group configurations. Let me assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the African Groups full cooperation and constructive engagement with the Bureau, partners, Secretariat and ACABQ for a successful outcome of this session.

**I thank you**