

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY MRS CAROLINE NALWANGA , MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 135: REVIEW OF THE
EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS; PROCUREMENT
ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT, FIRST
RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NEW YORK, 15 MARCH 2019)**

Madame Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 135: review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations: procurement activities in the United Nations Secretariat.
2. The Group would like to thank Mr. Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management, Department of Operational Support, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on procurement activities in the United Nations Secretariat, as contained in document A/73/704, as well as Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing its related report as contained in document A/73/790.

Madam Chair,

3. The African Group takes note of the present report of the Secretary-General on a new procurement framework in which the policy and

compliance functions are performed by the newly established Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance. while the operational procurement activities fall under the responsibility of the newly established Office of Supply Chain Management of the Department of Operational Support.

4. The Group will keenly follow the progress, including the indicators of achievement, of the new structure because the Group recognizes that organization within the new procurement framework is an essential contributor to an efficient management. We therefore expect Management to define clear responsibilities and authority both at the Headquarters and in the field under the delegation of authority framework including the levels of procurement that can be done by both entities.

5. Against this background, the African Group concurs with the Advisory Committee that at a time when both a new integrated procurement structure and an enhanced delegation of authority are being put in place, there is an urgent need for a strong and operational accountability framework. The Group expects that the role of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance in monitoring and evaluating the procurement function should be further defined and operationalized in order to strengthen compliance and accountability mechanisms.

Madam Chair,

6. The Group notes that the Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe has been renamed the Global Procurement Support Section and welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to strengthen the role of the Entebbe Office in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/266 B.
7. However, the Group will seek for more details regarding the global role that will be carried out by the Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe since supporting information and analysis have not been provided on the enhancements of the Office, nor on efficiencies, savings, qualitative and quantitative benefits.
8. With regard to bidding methodologies, the African Group takes note of new developments that have taken place. The Group looks forward to receiving a report of the review that is to be conducted in 2019 by the new Office of Supply Chain Management on the request for proposal solicitation methodology for aviation services.
9. Through this review, we reckon that lessons learned would be identified and opportunities unearthed to further streamline the process. The Group requests the incorporation of a comparative study of the request for proposal methodology and the invitation to bid methodology in the review exercise.

10. In conclusion, the African Group would like to reiterate the following asks:

I. A transparent procurement system that will take into account the specificities of the field, with equal opportunities and equitable access to all;

II. A well-defined accountability system within the new procurement framework;

II. To continue to develop UN procurement strategies and planning processes in order to consolidate gains in the prevention of uncoordinated purchasing, duplicated efforts and the inefficient use of resources;

IV. To ensure fairness, equality and non-discrimination in the access to UN Opportunities for African vendors and suppliers, taking into account the economic impact of procurement, in particular through local and regional markets.

Madam Chair,

11. The African Group wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively on this important agenda item.

I thank you.