

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY H.E. PROF. TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS, ON THE GLOBAL SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL
AT THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-THIRD
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE
(NEW YORK, 15 MARCH 2019)**

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on Agenda items 126, 135, 136 and 150: Global Service Delivery Model for the United Nations Secretariat (GSDM).

The Group thanks Mr. Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Operational Support, and Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee, for introducing their respective reports on this agenda item.

Madam Chair,

The African Group from the outset reiterates its support to the Secretary General's Reform agenda and underscores that business transformation initiatives should be supported, provided they prove to be an improvement on service delivery for mandate implementation. This is how we wish to approach the current proposed framework for the Global Service Delivery Model (GSDM), based on technical considerations.

The Group notes that the rationale for a new service delivery model for the Organization is aimed at responding to increasing complexities in the administrative structures, policies, procedures and delegations of authority in the Organization.

The Group takes note of the comments, observations and recommendations of the JIU as well as those of the Advisory Committee on the new proposal for GSDM submitted by the Secretary-General.

Madam Chair,

The Group has juxtaposed proposed location-independent functions with time-sensitive functions and has difficulty grasping how the provision of human resources and payroll administration services to clients in Africa are to be situated outside of the continent, especially as there are locations in Africa that have the capacity to carry out these functions.

Notwithstanding the Secretary General's recommendation to have one of the four centres located in Africa, it is important to take into account the Advisory Committee's recommendation which did not restrict the Secretariat from establishing additional centres in Africa.

In this regard, we look forward to an appropriate number of centres that would be commensurate with the various functions and language

requirements in Africa, in particular with respect to establishing a Centre in a francophone country to handle the 9,000 personnel and clients in the Region, in conformity with the relevant GA Resolution and the Advisory Committee recommendations.

Furthermore, the Group notes the lack of clarity with respect to the remaining processes, given the fact that of the 387 processes identified only 80 are expected to be offered in the first year of operation. This is in line with the Advisory Committee's suggestion that the Secretary General considers all options, including establishing other shared service Centres

Madam Chair,

As the African Group will seek to better understand inputs fed into the minimum requirements, the scoring criteria, the Secretariat's six-part methodology as well as the application of 'follow the sun' support model.

The Group will also delve into how arrangements of extra budgetary resource commitments played a part in the selection process, including the Secretariat's consideration for the offsetting of opportunity costs.

Turning to peacekeeping operations, it is envisaged that about 400 posts would be abolished for the financial period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 in an existing shared service centre. In addition, 24 posts funded

under the support account for PKOs would suffer a similar fate by 30 June 2021. It behooves the African Group to bring these projections/ proposals and their impact on Africa to question, given that a good percentage of PKOs are located on the continent.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, I would like to assure you of the Group's readiness to engage constructively on this important agenda item in a manner that strengthens Africa's role in the Global Shared Services architecture.

I thank you.