

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP  
BY MRS. CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO, COUNSELOR,  
PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
ON THE ESTIMATES IN RESPECT OF SPECIAL POLITICAL  
MISSIONS, GOOD OFFICES AND OTHER POLITICAL INITIATIVES  
AUTHORIZED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL THEMATIC CLUSTER II: SANCTIONS  
MONITORING TEAMS, GROUPS AND PANELS, AND OTHER  
ENTITIES AND MECHANISMS: PANEL OF EXPERTS ON SOMALIA AT  
THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF  
THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (NEW YORK, 11 MARCH 2019)**

**Madam Chair,**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 136; Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels, and other entities and mechanisms, Panel of Experts on Somalia.

Allow me to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, controller and Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for introducing their respective reports on this agenda item.

**Madame Chair,**

We wish to note that by its resolution 2444 (2018) dated 14 November 2018, the Security Council decided to:

a) Terminate the mandate of the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG);

b) Establish the Panel of Experts on Somalia for the period from 14 November 2018 to 15 December 2019;

c) Request the Secretary-General to arrange for the establishment of a panel of six experts to be based in Nairobi.

**Madame Chair,**

We further note that this committee has been requested to approve funding towards specific tasks to be undertaken by the panel which include; monitoring and investigating the measures imposed on Somalia. We wish to indicate that the group places high priority on the importance of the panel focusing on the approved mandate.

After the Group examining the staffing practices of this panel in light of the comments of the advisory committee, we wish to underscore the importance of avoiding practices in the recruitment of staff of the panel of experts, which are not in-line with the established recruitment policies and standard staffing practices of this organization. The African Group will seek to remedy these staffing practices.

The Group expresses serious concern that the compliance rate of the advance booking policy was only 20% especially because that work of the panel can be planned and does not fall in the urgent category. Therefore, we will seek additional efficiency Measures for the official travel of the experts in 2019.

**Madame Chair,**

The AU started operating in Somalia in 2007 and the UN came in to support it in 2012 February under resolution 2036 that allowed the reimbursement of major equipment. The UN further authorized the reimbursement of 6 categories under

self-sustainment in 2016. The third category of troop costs has been entirely left to well-wishers led by the European Union and under this arrangement AMISOM troops are paid 800 dollars compared to \$1420 paid by the UN.

Despite the tremendous gains in terms of security and peace in Somalia, the situation remains hostile and could easily be reversed. Therefore in order to maintain the security gains achieved in Somalia, the issue of financing AMISOM and extending support to the Somali National Army must be a high priority for the United Nations.

The UN should also reconsider its multi-pronged approach in Somalia and work towards consolidating its efforts under AMISOM.

The Group looks forward to constructive engagement on this agenda item.

**I thank you, Madame Chair**