

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. YOUSOUF ADEN MOUSSA, COUNSELOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF DJIBOUTI, ON THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER IN ENTEBBE, AT THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY- THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY- FIFTH COMMITTEE

(NEW YORK, 13 MAY 2019)

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on the Regional Service Center in Entebbe during the second resumed part of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of the State of Palestine on behalf of the group of 77 and China.

The African Group would like to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary General, Controller, as well as Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee, for introducing the respective reports of the Secretary-General and the ACABQ.

Madam Chair,

At the outset, the Group wishes to acknowledge the important work done by the Center in supporting Peacekeeping Missions and special political Missions, as well as other Missions in the region, through providing a range of human resources, administrative and financial services for various categories of UN personnel.

The African Group is cognizant that the East African corridor's project which closed on 8 November 2018 and achieved key benefits, including the development of a web-based inbound delivery-tracking tool and of an interactive regional surface network map, as well as cost and delivery time savings.

In this regard, the group is convinced that the lessons learned and experience gained during the implementation of the East African Corridor Project will be of great help in defining the future roles and responsibilities of the Strategic Air Operations Center (SAOC), the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre (TMICC), and the Air Traffic Control Section and Support the establishment of the Global Procurement Support Section as proposed by the Secretary General.

The group also noted with appreciation the expansion of the Regional Service Center's full coverage services to all missions Africa-based special policies, including the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

The Group will seek to understand the continued role of the TMICC in the coordination of Regional Air operations as well as seek to understand how the Delegation of Authority that was granted during the Management reforms has defined the role of the RSCE.

'The Group also notes that the RSCE has continued to redefine and improve its a scalability model to create effeciencies and savings for the General Assembly despite the fact the number of Missions its supports have increased significantly in the last two years and requests that the design of the scalability model used in the RSCE be applied to similar support entities.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, Madam Chair, the Group wishes to assure you of its readiness to engage constructively on this important agenda item.

I thank you.