

Statement

By

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**Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia to the United Nations**

At

**The 73rd Session of the General Assembly, Second Resume
Session of the Fifth Committee Meeting on Agenda Item 151,
Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
(UNISFA)**

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Madam Chair,

I wish to start my remarks by expressing our appreciation for your leadership and the work of the Fifth Committee Bureau. Let me also thank, the Controller and Chairman of the ACABQ, for their respective presentations.

Madam Chair,

As one of the largest TCCs Ethiopia attaches greater importance to the need of availing adequate finance and supply of capabilities, without of which, success of peacekeepers will be very difficult. In this respect, it is unfortunate that Peacekeeping Missions are increasingly being tasked with extended mandates, and simultaneously face demands for delivering more and more with diminishing resource supply, including reduced expenditure for capabilities. We strongly believe that mandates and resource requirements for missions must be balanced for the achievement of their scope of operation and goals.

We fully agree that cost-effectiveness and efficiency of operations should be achieved, but it is unacceptable that peacekeepers are exposed to dangerous situation subjecting them into health hazards and loss of life. In this connection, UNISFA has been operating, particularly, during the last two years under heavy resource constraints. Consequently, special need requirements for female contingents, accommodation and logistical arrangements are still below standards.

In view of all this, we support UNISFA's budget for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 as submitted by the Secretary General in the amount of \$267,918,400 (two hundred sixty-seven million nine hundred eighteen four hundred dollars). Our hope is, all efforts were made during preparation of the budget to avoid major resource drawbacks on the Mission. As this is a matter of priority to my Delegation, we will inquire if representatives from the field have been sufficiently consulted when these figures are published. Assurance from the Secretariat, whether the proposed budget can allow UNISFA meet its mandate delivery is essential.

It is also important that sufficient explanations are provided, on the proposed adjustment by the Advisory Committee, which had recommended reduction from the Secretary General's submission in the amount of \$3,041,400 (three million forty-one thousand four hundred dollars). The question, in this relation, is will the reduction significantly affect any of the mandated tasks? and this indeed needs proper explanation.

Madam Chair,

UNISFA has delivered its mandate efficiently, but as rightly highlighted by the ACABQ, it is regrettable that as at 31 December 2018 the amount owed for contingent owned equipment was more than 11 million dollars, while the death and disability compensation of 12 payment claims as at 31 January 2019 have been pending. We highly appreciate the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, concerning the need for expeditious settlement of these outstanding

claims. We also hope all the accumulated reimbursements and payments be paid to avoid overburdening the TCC.

UNISFA is a peculiar Mission that won trust of the two sisterly neighbouring countries, Sudan and South Sudan. It has helped to reverse a looming war. The two countries transited from brink of deadly conflict to a new hope, and seeds of sustainable cooperation are starting to grow because of the persistent efforts by our troops. It also made possible peaceful interaction between communities, including the creation of emerging economic hubs like the Amiet-Market of the Ngok- Dinka and Misseriya communities in Abyei area. This all is the result of heavy sacrifices by our peacekeepers, since the beginning of 2019 eight of them have lost their lives.

It would be, therefore, reasonable that all the required financial and material resources for the budget year 2019/20 are provided in full. We strongly believe that risks undermining hard won gains, must be managed. Accordingly, resource requirements for facilities, infrastructure and quick-impact projects be support by the Committee to facilitate minimizing all forms of risks.

Regarding the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), some of the budget cuts haven't taken into account the resource needed for life support activities. We believe this is inappropriate and has to be reconsidered seriously. In this respect, the proposal by the Secretary General has tried to reflect the gravity of the logistical and supply challenges in Somalia, and it merits the full support of the committee.

In conclusion, the need for cash balance of Missions should be improved and outstanding claims be settled with-in reasonable time frame. *Madam Chair*, my Delegation wishes to call for unity of purpose in the work of the Committee to uphold justifiable and appropriate resources allocation, and facilitate successful implementation of mandates of all Peacekeeping missions under consideration.

I thank you,