

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY MRS CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 165 FINANCING OF THE AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR ( 14 DECEMBER 2018)**

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 165 Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

The Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts (OPPBA), as well as Mr. Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

In welcoming the presentation of the reports allow me to note that the related reports have been issued very late and without translation in the six main languages and to request the Secretary General to address the late issuance of reports.

Madam Chair

Allow me to note that Darfur has witnessed a period of stability and the humanitarian and political situations have steadily progressed as attested in the reports.

We recall that the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/259 B, took note of the strategic assessment undertaken by the Secretary-General, and requested him to submit at the main part of its seventy-third session a

revised budget proposal for 2018/19 reflecting the decisions that may be taken by the Security Council.

We further recall the General Assembly's authorization to the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not exceeding Three Hundred and Eighty-five Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-eight Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$385,678,500) for the Mission to continue with its operations for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2018.

We take note of the most recent extension of the mandate, until 30 June 2019 as authorized by Security Council in resolution 2429 and are cognizant of the recommendations of the Secretary-General and Chairperson of the African Commission in the Special Report (2/2018/530) that presents a whole-of-system approach for Darfur, adjusted priorities for UNAMID and a transition concept in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team to prepare ground for phasing the mission closure.

Madam Chair,

Having taken note of the abolishment of both military and civilian personnel and in particular the abolishment of 1,183 civilian posts and positions, our expectation would be that the 942 affected National Staff would be assisted through capacity building, conducting of job fairs among other measures to equip them for seeking gainful employment. In addition to that, we wish to recall the recommendation of the Advisory committee and advocate for the further nationalization of posts as well as a timely recruitment to fill all vacant posts.

As the mission comes to an end, we hereby reiterate the request made by the Advisory committee to the Secretary General, to utilize the experience gained in the liquidation of missions such as UNOCI, UNMIL and

MINUSTAH and in particular apply the Liquidation Manual and update it as appropriate.

The Group further requests that the Secretary General ensures the environmental footprint of the Mission is reduced including the timely and adequate treatment of contaminated soil.

The African Group welcomes the greening initiative which involves the planting of some 500,000 trees, including 350,000 drought resistant tree species in the Operation area as well as water and sanitation drives.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, the Group will fully support the Secretary-General's proposal for total resource requirements of Seven Hundred and Twenty-seven Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-two Thousand and Seven Hundred Dollars (\$727,522,700).

On another note we wish to acknowledge the outstanding work done by the outgoing Members of the Advisory Committee and in particular wish to acknowledge the outstanding work done by Mr. Babu Sene vice- chair and Mr. Tesfa Seyoum as well the chair Mr. Carlos G. Ruiz Massieu.

The African Group assures you of its usual commitment to engage constructively on this agenda item.

I thank you, Madam Chair