

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MRS CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO ,COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 22 DECEMBER 2018)

Madam Chair,

At the Outset, the Group acknowledges the presence of Ms. Jan Beagle, Under Secretary General for Management as well as Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, the Assistant Secretary-General, Controller.

On behalf of the African Group, I would like to thank you, Madam Chair, for your dedicated leadership and guidance throughout this session. It has indeed enabled us to conclude negotiations in record time despite the fact that a lot was at stake.

The African Group also wishes to thank the members of the Bureau for their commitment and service, sometimes under very demanding circumstances. We equally wish to thank the Secretariat of the Committee for their unwavering dedication, service, and guidance and for going well beyond the call of duty in facilitating the work of the Committee.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the Distinguished Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam Chair,

This session has not been without its challenges especially in dealing with items like the Scale of Assessment, Pension Fund, the funding of special Political Missions, the Common system, Administration of justice and the Human Resource Management, Human Resource Placement among other important agenda Items.

As usual however, the membership of the Fifth Committee's strength of character, the cordiality and the spirit of consensus building strove us all to the successful conclusion of this session and for that we wish to thank all our

partners for the positive engagement and to underscore that the African Group is proud to have been a part of this process.

The African Group regrets that the committee was unable to provide policy guidance to the Secretary General to improve the welfare and working conditions of the United Nations staff as well as regrets the lack of the committee's pronouncement on extremely important issues like Equitable geographical representation and Gender parity during an era in which various reforms are shaping the history of the United Nations and of the world.

It is the Group's expectation that the Secretary-General and his managers will ensure a timely and full implementation of mandates given with efficiency and effectiveness while paying due consideration to the dire financial situation of the Organization.

Having adopted the Scale of Assessments this year, the Group continues to encourage all Member States to be guided by this in paying their assessments on time, in full and without condition.

Lastly the Group wishes to request all relevant offices to enhance their efforts to ensure that agenda items are submitted to the Fifth Committee for consideration in a timely manner.

Madam Chair,

As we close the year and the Session, the African Group, on a special note would like to express its gratitude to the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their excellent and inspirational leadership to the Group of 77 and China. We join other delegations in celebrating the accomplishments of the outgoing Chair and his representative Mr. Mohamed Fouad and Mr. Karim Ismail.

The African Group would also like to assure the State of Palestine, the incoming Chair of the G77 and China, of our usual support in advancing our collective interests.

Thank you and Happy Holidays to All.