

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MRS CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO ,COUNSELLOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA , DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 3 JULY 2019)**

Thank you, Madam Chair for giving me the floor,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group at this closing session of the second part of resumed seventy-third session of the Fifth Committee.

**Madam Chair,**

The African Group would like to thank the Bureau under your able leadership for guiding our work during the seventy-third session, including this very difficult second resumed part. The support of all, interpreters, sound engineers and conference officers in facilitating our work have not gone unnoticed, and we are profoundly appreciative of their work. Special recognition, as always, goes to Ms. Sharon Van Buerle and her Fifth Committee Secretariat team for their hard and diligent work which saw their simultaneous handling of the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

We acknowledge the presence of the Controller and Office in charge of the DMSPC Mr. Chandru Ramanathan and the Chair of the Advisory Committee Mr. Cihan Terzi in our meeting today.

The Group aligns itself with the comments and remarks expressed by the Representative of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to make a few additions in this regard.

While the Group shares the consensual outcome reached today, we would like to register our concern in the way the proceedings were conducted. The unnecessary delays in the consideration of many items, in particular, the budget for Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) impacted negatively on the Committee's work and mitigating efforts had to be quadrupled to ensure that financing of PKOs was achieved.

**Madam Chair,**

Agreement reached during our deliberations was achieved with sacrifice and painful concessions from our Group. The level of the peacekeeping budget had to be painstakingly negotiated in a way that has necessitated the African Group to express its concern of the limited resources allocated to peacekeeping operations whose primary objective is to support member states' efforts for peace and security while ensuring the protection of often vulnerable civilians, especially women and children.

Once again, we call the attention of all to the adverse effects of doing more with less. Soon enough, we will end up with hardly any resources for mandate implementation, as well as going without a competitive

human resource capacity which could be occasioned by the year-on-year uncertainty regarding their continued engagement.

**Madam Chair,**

While we managed to secure the fundamentals of the budget, the African Group believes that substantial cuts across lines could be inimical to mandate implementation and, a dent on the credibility of the United Nations. Therefore, we call upon all our partners to continue working in a manner that would be in consonance with the spirit of the Charter, and at experts' level so that doubt is not cast on our commitment.

Going forward, we strongly urge individual Member States and groups of countries to avoid any further attempts of arbitrary cuts in the budget in the name of seeking efficiency. It is important to note that the risk of a non-consensual outcome is very high and the price to be paid by all of us could constitute dire consequences.

To avoid the accumulation of arrears and the repercussions of dwindling coffers for the Organization, we call on all members to pay their contributions in full, promptly, and without conditions.

**Madam Chair,**

The Group believes in the need to continually ensure that sessions of the Committee are concluded within the allocated time frame as stipulated by the Programme of Work. There is a general acceptance that we need to improve our methods of engagement.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my own Group for their immense contribution, their sacrifices as well as their high level of cooperation and constructiveness.

**Madam Chair,**

On behalf of the Group, I also wish to welcome the incoming Chair of the Fifth Committee, who will guide us during the 74th session. The Group pledges its support and looks forward to a fruitful relationship.

**I thank you Madam Chair.**