

Statement by Ambassador J. M. Matjila, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations on the Organisation of Work of the main part of the seventy-third session of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly

New York, 9 October 2018

Thank you Madame Chair,

I congratulate you and the members of your Bureau on your election. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the deliberations are constructive, based on compromise that recognizes the legitimate positions and aspirations of all delegations, and the need to provide effective oversight over the Organisation.

My delegation aligns itself to the statements made by Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Morocco on behalf of the African Group.

During this session, we will continue to place great emphasis on adequately resourcing the Organisation to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of mandates. The vision of the Secretary-General's reforms must be carried through to the global human resources strategy where we will closely examine the proposals to ensure that efforts are made to ensure geographic diversity and gender parity.

I would like to reflect that already that in 1948, in paragraph 7 of resolution A/652, the General Assembly stated that the cardinal principle of geographical distribution is that the administration should be satisfied that the Secretariat is enriched by the experience and culture which each Member nation can furnish and that each Member nation, should, in its turn, be satisfied that its own culture and philosophy make a full contribution to the Secretariat. Today, seventy years later, I think an honest reflection on this statement is that seventy years later, we are far from a multicultural and diverse Secretariat, to the Organisation's great detriment. I would like to, however, pay tribute to the Secretary-General for his progress in achieving gender parity and greater geographic diversity in his senior-level appointments. This demonstrates that the policies of the Organisation are not the obstacle, but a matter of political will and commitment of line managers.

Madame Chair,

We will also pay close attention to the scales of assessment for both the regular budget and peacekeeping operations, emphasizing the importance of the fundamental principle of capacity to pay. In particular, we will pay attention to discussions on the funding of the United Nations Development System, construction projects, special political missions, UNAMID and the restructuring of the Economic Commission for Africa.

In conclusion, let me assure you of my delegation's commitment to work constructively with all delegations towards the timely conclusion of these agenda items. I am reassured that in the past four years, no matter the workload, tension and difficulty, our experts have managed to conclude the session in a timely and constructive manner. I wish them all the best for the coming session.

I thank you.