

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP
BY H.E. PROF. TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ,
ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIRST PART
OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH
COMMITTEE
(NEW YORK, 11 MARCH 2019)**

Madam Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on the organization of work for the first part of the resumed 73rd session of the Fifth Committee and to express the Group's appreciation for your leadership and the work of the Bureau members.

I also take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the excellent work of the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee under the leadership of Ms. Sharon Van Buerle. Your team has indeed been a strong pillar in facilitating our work.

Allow me to welcome and congratulate Mr. Chandru Ramanathan for his recent appointment as controller and also to congratulate Mr. Cihan Terzi for assuming the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) as well as congratulate all the new members of the Advisory Committee. The African Group looks forward to building on your efforts to provide policy and fiscal guidance to the Secretary General.

Madam Chair,

We have taken note of the program of work and the agenda items which will be considered in this session. The group places high priority on the Special Political Missions, Procurement, Arusha construction, the Global Service Delivery Model and the work of the Joint Inspection unit.

Well noting that the Global Service Delivery Model is likely to be one of the most contentious agenda items, the African Group will carefully examine all the proposals made by the Secretary General based on technical principals with the view of resolving the matter in a manner that will strengthen Africa's role in the global shared Services structure given the peculiarity that majority of the Secretariat staff are based or deliver services in Africa.

We have also noted that the report of the "Staff Regulations and Rules" is scheduled to be discussed in this session and we wish to reiterate that the Human Resources

Management agenda items should be considered as a package since the policies are interrelated and it is difficult to streamline Gender parity policies without addressing Geographical representation.

The African Group looks forward to considering the Procurement agenda item and especially measures that will be undertaken by the Secretary General to increase procurement from developing countries as well as the increase of local content and use of local materials in the construction of various Secretariat entities.

We also encourage the Secretary General to strengthen measures to provide outreach and affirmative action for vendors from developing countries in order to bring them on board in as far as UN procurement is concerned.

We hope that the current proposal will also address increased transparency in the UN procurement system and provide greater guidance in how delegated authority and accountability will be exercised under the procurement reforms.

The group looks forward to considering the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit and especially the whistle blower policies and practices noting that this needs to be strengthened even further under an era of delegated authority to prevent abuse of office and penalizing of whistle blowers.

Madam Chair,

In closing, I wish to assure you that the African Group is prepared to engage in a constructive manner during the first part of the resumed 73rd session.

I thank you.