

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. KATLEGO BOASE MMLANE, FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT
MISSION OF BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON AGENDA ITEM 132: FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF
AUDITORS (B) UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
AT THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH
SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(New York, 7 May 2020)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 132: Financial Reports and Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Board of Auditors, on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.
2. The Group wishes to thank the Director of External Audit and Chairperson of the Audit Operations Committee, for introducing the report of the Board of Auditors on the Accounts of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. The Group would also like to extend our appreciation to the Controller and Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for introducing their respective reports on the above subject matter.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group would like to join the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Cooperative Republic of Guyana, on behalf of the G77 and China, and would like to make the following additional remarks.
4. We reiterate our appreciation for the indispensable role of the Board of Auditors as a crucial component of the oversight system of the United Nations. Member states attach great importance to the observations and recommendations of the Board in following up on mandate delivery, and in ensuring that the administration carries out its tasks in line with relevant rules and regulations.
5. However, The Group believes that there are policy matters that must remain in the ambit of Member States. In this regard, the Group regrets the inclusion of eight recommendations which the General-Assembly had explicitly requested the Administration not

to implement according to GA resolution A/73/268B in this year Board's report under the category" not implemented". In light of the said resolution and the resolve of Member States, the Group underscores that these recommendations should not be considered not implemented much less pending, but rather deemed a closed matter. The Group trusts this will be duly reflected in future reports of the Board.

Mr. Chair,

6. While the Group reiterates its support and appreciation for the work of the Board of Auditors, it also underscores that the Board, should always strictly abide by its mandate while fulfilling its mission. Regrettably, some of the observations and recommendations included in the report of the Board at hand addressed several issues such as the assessment, tactical deployment and engagement of military units and assets. The Group believes that these matters fall under the purview of Member States and relevant organs of the United Nations. We call upon the Board to refrain from addressing these issues in the future.
7. In closing, the Group would like to reassure you, Mr. Chair, of its readiness to engage constructively in the informal consultations, and to conclude this agenda item at the earliest opportunity.

I thank you.