

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY
MR. THEODORE YEBOAH, COUNSELLOR,
PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 163 ... Financing of the PKO – UNAMID, AT THE MAIN PART OF
THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(NEW YORK, 17TH DECEMBER 2019)**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 163 Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

At the outset, the Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, ASG, Controller, as well as Mr. Cihan Terzi, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

Mr. Chair

The African Group wishes to recall that in its resolution 2495 (2019) of 31 October 2019, the Security Council took note of the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations (S/2019/816) as well as the letter from the Prime Minister of the Sudan addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and decided to extend until 31 October 2020 the mandate of UNAMID. It is to be also recalled that the Council further decided for UNAMID to continue to implement its mandate as set out in its resolution 2429 (2018) and, in line with existing tasks.

The Group as well remains cognizant of the special reports of the Secretary-General and Chairperson of the African Union Commission that present a whole-of-system approach for Darfur including adjusted priorities for UNAMID and a transition concept but would urge the Organization to maintain a responsible approach towards drawdown and exit. We wish to

reiterate that the Operation's mandate is to help the Council achieve an overall objective, namely, a lasting political solution and sustained security in Darfur.

Additionally, we welcome the Mission's undertaking of critical operational activities such as environmental clean-up and bioremediation activities, and the safe disposal of solid waste through its selected tipping site(s).

Also, the Group welcomes the implementation of programmatic activities by the Mission in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team through state liaison functions.

Mr. Chair,

As part of the exit plan, the Group wishes to remind the Secretary-General of the Organization's obligation to the reduction of the Mission's overall environmental footprint, including the timely treatment of contaminated soil.

Additionally, our Group looks forward to receiving information on progress made with respect to the greening initiative, including the planting of drought resistant tree species as part of this initiative.

Further to this, we wish to reiterate our call for the Secretary-General to draw on the experience gained in the liquidation of recently closed missions such as UNOCI and UNMIL while using the Liquidation Manual as a necessary guide during the drawdown phase.

Taking note of the fact that the drawdown will be characterized by the abolition of posts and positions, with a particular emphasis on national ones, the African Group wishes to request that affected staff be assisted through capacity building, job fairs among other measures in a bid to prepare them for a competitive job market, noting that their time with the Organization may have also equipped them with relevant skills and experience.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, the Group wishes to express its support for the 3-month budgetary requirement of \$130,227,800 requested by the Secretary-General while stressing the importance of adequate and timely funding at such a critical phase of the Mission's life. We assure you, Mr. Chair, of our commitment to a constructive engagement on this agenda item.

I thank you.