

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR MOHAMED TRAORE, SECOND COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MALI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 148: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM, AT THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(New York, 09 December 2020)

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 148, entitled "United Nations Common System". The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Guyana on behalf of the G77 and China on this Agenda item.

The Group wishes to thank the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission, Ambassador Larbi Djacta, for presenting the annual report as contained in document A/75/30 and takes note with appreciation of the work of the Commission.

The Group would also like to thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing the Advisory Committee's report. We also thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, for presenting the statement of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the ICSC.

Mr Chair,

The African Group reiterates its support for the role played by the ICSC in shaping the welfare of staff and the policies that govern the Human Resource Management and takes note, with appreciation, of the Commission's report.

In this regard, the Group would like to reiterate its long stand position and reaffirms the role of the Commission in regulating and coordinating the conditions of service and entitlements in a manner consistent with best practices which has led to the attraction and maintaining of highly qualified personnel in the United Nations.

The Group reaffirms also the mandate of the Commission to continue to establish post adjustment multipliers according to its statute.

The African Group is particularly supportive of the update of the level of danger pay in the field as contained in the report, noting that the majority of the hardship locations are located in Africa.

The Group welcomes the special measures taken by the ICSC during this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to ensure the stability of performance of staff and with the understanding that those measures will be discontinued once the condition that led to their establishments are gone.

On the issue of equitable geographical representation more efforts are needed in this domain and as such, the African Group calls for a more strategic, coordinated and a sustained approach in addressing this longstanding imbalance and therefore looks forward to a more comprehensive report on the issue from the Commission next year.

Mr. Chair,

The Group takes note of the decisions and recommendations made by the ICSC and will constructively engage to build a consensus regarding this agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.