

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. FELIX-FILS EBOA EBONGUE, COUNSELOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON, ON AGENDA ITEM 154: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS - UPDATED FINANCIAL POSITION OF CLOSED PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS AS AT 30 JUNE 2020, AT THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(New York, 3rd May 2021)

Mr. Chair

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group on Agenda Item 154: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: Updated financial position of Closed Peacekeeping Missions as at 30 June 2020.
2. The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Republic of Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to make some additional remarks.
3. The African Group expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing their related reports.
4. The group notes prior to adopting its resolution 74/278, the General Assembly had deferred consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions since its sixty-sixth session. The group trusts that the ingenuity of this committee will prevail once again during the negotiations of this important agenda item in order to arrive at a positive outcome.

Mr. Chair

5. The Group notes with concern the insignificant improvement in the cash deficit situation in five closed peacekeeping missions. Compared to the previous period, the cash deficit in these missions remained relatively at the same level, at \$85.5 million as at 30 June 2020 compared to an amount of \$85.6 million over the same period during the previous financial year. This dire state of affairs has been occasioned mainly by

non-payment of outstanding assessed contributions by some Member States to a tune of \$152.4 million. Consequently, this has greatly hindered the ability of those missions to pay their liabilities, especially, the long outstanding claims owed by troop- and police-contributing countries by closed peacekeeping missions. As at 30 June 2020, these claims stood at \$81 million.

6. The group however wishes to extend its appreciation to the member states who honoured their obligations and paid their outstanding dues to the closed peace keeping missions last financial year to a tune of \$5.9 million. The Group reiterates its call that all Member States should fulfill their financial obligations as set out in the Charter of the United Nations in full, without conditions and in a timely fashion.

Mr. Chair

7. In its resolution 74/278, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take every measure necessary to reimburse troop- and police-contributing countries before the closure of any peacekeeping mission, and to avoid the current practice of delaying reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries. The group notes with appreciation that the three most recently closed peacekeeping operations, namely, UNOCI, UNMIL and MINUJUSTH, have paid all their dues to troop- and police-contributing countries. The group trusts that this momentum will be maintained moving forward.
8. The Group takes note that the Secretary General has continued to borrow from closed peace keeping missions with cash surpluses to fund both the peace keeping and regular budget operations. Furthermore, the Secretary General has indicated in the current report that the liquidity situation has worsened, and the Organization will continue to use cash surpluses of closed peacekeeping operations. However, the group believes that there is a compelling imperative to find a viable and sustainable solution to the liquidity constraints facing the organization.
9. Regarding the net cash surpluses of closed missions, amounting to 157,596,000 dollars, the Group looks forward to receiving more information during the informal negotiations of this agenda item.
10. To conclude, the African Group would like to assure you, Mr Chairman that it will engage actively and constructively in the upcoming deliberations on this important issue.

I thank you Mr Chairman.