

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PHILIP ODIDA, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 154: BUDGET OF THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE IN ENTEBBE, UGANDA DURING THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 11 MAY 2021)

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Uganda on agenda item 154: Budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE), Uganda, for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Representative of the Republic of Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 & China and that of the African Group read by the Representative of Mali. I wish to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

3. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, the Assistant Secretary-General and Controller, and to Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

Mr. Chair,

4. My delegation attaches great importance to the role the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe plays in facilitating the work of the United Nations, most especially on the African Continent. In this respect, my delegation wishes to pledge the unwavering support of the Government of Uganda to the continued growth of the United Nations activities at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and its peacekeeping operations in the region.

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 64/269, established the Regional Service Center in Entebbe, Uganda, as the first Shared Service Center for Missions in the region under the Global Field Support Strategy and further in its resolution 69/307 gave the Center operational and managerial independence and requested the Secretary-General to submit a budget proposal to be charged against the Missions the Center supports.

6. I take this opportunity to note that the Center now supports 19 client entities, including (eight) 8 Peacekeeping Missions and (ten) 10 Special Political Missions, as well as other Missions in the region in addition to the Forward Support and Deployment Hub (FSDH) that has been proposed for this budget year. We have also taken note of MOUNUSCO's reduced reliance on the Entebbe Logistics base, and therefore, the Government of Uganda looks forward to concluding host

agreement arrangements with the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe regarding the management of the facilities and infrastructure at Entebbe.

Mr. Chair,

7. In the budget period of 2021/22, the Centre will continue to provide human resources, finance, communications, and information technology, transportation, and movement control services, personnel and cargo transport, and procurement support services to its client missions as well as support liquidated and closed client missions.

8. Since its establishment, the workload and volume of transactions carried out by the Centre have increased. Therefore, it is imperative that adequate resources commensurate with this increasing workload and responsibility are provided to the Centre.

9. My delegation appeals to the Secretary-General to ensure that the vacant posts in the Centre are filled expeditiously and ensure that the Centre is adequately staffed to enable it effectively to implement its mandate, especially now that it has an increased client base

10. My delegations also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/286, noted that the national staff of the Centre are eligible for continuing contracts and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that they are granted continuing contracts in line with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions. My delegation, therefore, urges the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate the issuance of continuing contracts to the national staff that meet the eligibility criteria

Mr. Chair

11. Finally, my delegation welcomes the conclusion of the study on the Strategic Air Operations Centre, the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre as well the Global Procurement Support Section in the context of an integrated supply chain management approach, welcomes the proposed integration of the Global procurement Section within RSCE as a tenant unit and the establishment of Forward Support and Deployment Hub (FSDH) as a tenant unit reporting to the Office of Supply Chain Management to replace the TMICC that will allow the Secretariat to fully leverage the complementarity of the supply chain management within offices which have a technical reporting line to the Office of Supply Chain Management at Headquarters and the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi.

IN CONCLUSION, Mr. Chair, I assure you of my delegation's commitment to engage constructively on this agenda item

I thank you