

Statement

By

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Permanent Mission of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations**

At

**The 75th Session of the General Assembly,
Second Resume Session of the Fifth Committee
Meeting on Financing Peace Keeping Operations**

*(Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)
(Agenda Item 155) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia
(UNSOS) (Agenda Item 170)*

04 May 2021

Esteemed Chair,

I wish to start my remarks by expressing our appreciation for your leadership and the work of the Fifth Committee Bureau. I would also like to thank the SG and the ACABQ for their reports.

Mr, Chair,

We support the Secretary General's budget proposal for UNISFA and UNSOS for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. We note that the Secretary General's budget proposal for both missions is a reduction from previous year appropriations.

Considering UNISFA is a mission subjected to considerable drawdown of troops without any adjustment to its mandate or scope of the mission area, any reduction of budget is a source of great concern. On this basis, the reductions of budget proposed by the Advisory Committee, would require sufficient explanations.

Mr. chair,

UNISFA is a peculiar Mission in that it involves single troop and police contributing country on the basis of the agreement of the two host countries concerned. It is a great honor and privilege for Ethiopia to have contributed to improvement of the bilateral relations of the two sisterly countries and stability of the greater region.

So far, UNISFA have effectively averted a looming war. It helped the transition from a post-independence conflict to a peaceful transition by creating a conducive environment for negotiation, peaceful

interaction between communities, and creation of economic activities and markets in Abyei.

The peace keeping troop in UNISFA have paid dearly in discharging their functions that have resulted to the above stated outcomes. It is therefore of utmost importance for all stakeholders to focus on preserving and scaling up the hard-earned achievements so far.

In this regard, we find it important to mention the challenges faced in the deployment of police, civilian and other staff to UNISFA, which is also included in the report of the Advisory Committee. It is necessary that the Secretary General engages with the host countries to resolve challenges and gaps faced in the deployments. The prolonged delays in deployment are bound to cause gaps in implementation of mandates and in the safety and security of troops.

Mr. Chair,

Regarding the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), we are of the view that the budget cuts proposed by the Advisory Committee haven't taken into account the resource needed for the functions of the office. We are also concerned, the Covid-19 Pandemic is misconstrued as to its impact in the context of the host countries and communities and the tenable alternative means to fulfil mandates and conduct operations in Africa and in Somalia in this case. We intend to seek clarifications and engage constructively to addressing our concerns and endorsing the budget proposed by the Secretary General.

In addition, in the consideration of the budget of UNSOS, we find it critical to live up-to the existing mandate of UNSOS and the other AU-UN missions in Somalia. Prospective mandate alterations are in the prerogative of the UN Security Council as well as the outcome of consultations with the African Union. Until the completion of these and variation of the mandate and role of the missions in Somali and that of UNSOS, we should not be engaging in administrative and budget considerations on the basis of a would-be situation.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we call for redoubling of all efforts to engender unity of purpose in the work of the Committee to ensure a smooth negotiation and completion of our indispensable task on time.

I thank you