

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY H.E  
AMBASSADOR ISSIMAIL CHANFI, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF COMOROS TO  
UNITED NATIONS ON THE ORGANISATION OF WORK OF  
THE FIFTH COMMITTEE, DURING THE SECOND  
RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY FIFTH SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**(New York, 3 May 2021)**

**Mr Chair,**

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on the organization of work of the Fifth Committee.
2. The African Group would like to thank the Bureau under your able leadership for the tireless efforts aimed at facilitating the delivery of the Committee's responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner, despite the challenging situation we are facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. 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 add a few remarks.
4. At the outset, the Group acknowledges the presence of Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant-Secretary General and Controller; Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on administrative and Budgetary Questions.
5. With regard to the organization of the work of the Fifth Committee for the second resumed part of the seventy fifth session, the African Group would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the Programme of work and welcomes the designation of the facilitators of all the various agenda items to be considered.
6. The agenda of the Committee during the second resumed session is laden with a large number of reports which will be considered during the coming weeks.

7. The African Group acknowledges that the programme before us is tentative and that the Bureau will continue to update it throughout the session to reflect progress made.
8. On the substance of the programme, the Group recalls that the Second resumed part of the Fifth Committee's session is traditionally meant to consider peacekeeping operations related matters and more specifically, the approval of their respective budgets.
9. While efforts have been made to reduce the number of agenda items non-related to PKOs, the Group trusts that such progress shall be strengthened in subsequent sessions. In that regard, we echo the appeal made by the Group of 77 and China regarding "The implementation of a flexible workplace at United Nations Headquarters" on the provisional programme of work.
10. Consideration of the various reports is critical to the work of the Committee and thus requires sufficient time. The African Group commends the progress achieved in issuing reports and trusts that this positive dynamic will be maintained to ensure timely issuance of the remaining reports.
11. Similarly, the Group expects that supplementary information that will be requested by Member States would be provided early enough to ease the negotiation process of the Committee. The Group in that regard applauds the communication of ACABQ supplementary information to Member States, which reduces the number of questions from the membership of the Committee, and we encourage such positive and constructive initiatives.

**Mr. Chair,**

12. Turning to our working methods, the Group firmly believes that the Fifth Committee can depart from its trend of spending endless days and nights in negotiations, with the critical stages of the negotiations being extended to the end of June or, in some instances, early July.

13. The Group trusts that, through constructive cooperation among delegations and groups of delegations, a consensual and mutually beneficial outcome can be achieved, without undue rush or pressure. The African Group stands ready to engage fully and in good faith in that regard.

**Mr. Chair,**

14. Before concluding, the Group would like to reiterate its concern raised at previous sessions, the latest occasion being the closing meeting of the first resumed part of the current session, and reiterates its frustration about the unavailability of simultaneous interpretation during crucial segments of its work, particularly during introduction of languages.

15. This situation, Mr Chair, hampers the possibility for far too many constituents of our Group to engage actively and effectively in the negotiation and deliberative process of the Committee. We expect that corrective arrangements will be made in due time.

**Mr. Chair,**

16. The African Group would like to use this opportunity to make a few general comments on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

17. The African Group expresses its sincere gratitude to all uniformed and civilian personnel who have dedicated their lives to serving the United Nations, as well as, those at Headquarters supporting the work of peacekeepers in the field. As we are 3 days from the annual memorial service, the African Group wishes to pay special tribute and honour the memory of all civilian, military and police personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of global peace and security.

18. We are cognizant of the dynamics of peacekeeping operations where execution of mandates includes, among others, the protection of civilians, safety and security of the personnel and the environment, as well as the reimbursement of TCCs/PCCs. It is our hope that the new challenges arising, particularly in the Covid-19

pandemic situation, are appreciated to maintain the balance between the provision of appropriate resources and expected results.

19. The Group notes that the United Nations will support 12 active peacekeeping operations for the coming budget cycle, for a budget requirement amounting to 6 billion and 466 million dollars, which is 310 million lower than the level approved for the 2020/21 period and 344.3 million lower than that approved for the 2019/20 period.

20. On the allocation of resources to individual missions, the Group reiterates the great importance it attaches to the proper financing of mandates authorized by the Security Council. We wish to emphasize the complexity of mandates and the unique challenges on the ground, including in Missions on the African continent.

21. The Group recognizes the important role played by programmatic activities and quick impact projects in supporting the implementation of mission mandates, and stresses the need for the timely, responsible, and accountable implementation of all planned projects.

22. Considering the time constraints and the exceptional situation of the drawdown and closure of UNAMID, the Group looks forward to and calls on all delegations and groups of delegations to engage constructively to reach a consensual decision on the commitment authority requested by the Secretary-General in a timely fashion, and ideally before the end of May.

**Mr. Chair,**

23. The African Group is aware that this session carries a heavy workload for the Committee and believes that dedication and transparency in our deliberations will facilitate the timely conclusion of the session.

24. It is also necessary to maintain and redouble the creativity of approach the Committee has shown to cope the challenges of business continuity Covid-19 pandemic has created. It is our hope

that this same effort can extend to the plea we made regarding simultaneous interpretation at our sessions.

25. As usual, Mr. Chair, you can count on our constructive engagement with the aim of concluding this agenda item in a timely fashion.

I thank you for your attention.