

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. MASOTSHA MNGUNI, COUNSELLOR: POLITICAL, PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 136. REVIEW OF EFFICIENCY– INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING, DURING THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NEW YORK, 12 MAY 2022)

Mr. Chair,

1- I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 136. **review of efficiency– investing in prevention and peacebuilding.**

2- The Group wishes to thank ASG Elizabeth Spehar' for introducing the SG's report on investment in prevention and peacebuilding. The group also thanks the Advisory Committee's Chair for introducing its related report.

Mr. Chair,

3- Africa, as a longstanding and committed supporter to the UN peacebuilding architecture, welcomes the sustained attention given by the Secretary-General to peacebuilding. Indeed, prevention is less costly than peacekeeping; hence our strong support for investment in preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts that are people centered.

We are convinced of the centrality of conflict prevention and peacebuilding to the work of the United Nations, as a core task in the organization's charter.

- 4- The Group notes that there is a broad-based understanding and support among Member States to the notion of prioritizing peacebuilding as a proven and cost-effective investment. However, this has yet to be translated into concrete actions, as peacebuilding financing, solely depending on voluntary contributions, remains in-adequate, unpredictable and not sustainable, with demand for support outpacing available resources.
- 5- It's time to move, beyond rhetoric, to urgent actionable steps to preserve peace and development gains and prevent relapse into conflicts.

Mr. Chair,

- 6- Today's meeting comes after a very encouraging high-level meeting on peacebuilding financing in the General Assembly, where Member States reiterated their commitment to pursuing an action-oriented outcome by considering all financing options, including through voluntary, assessed and innovative funding.
- 7- In line with this positive momentum, and as guided by the Common African Position (CAP) on peacebuilding, the Africa Group pursues a comprehensive approach to enhancing the adequacy, predictability and sustainability of peacebuilding financing. Although we agree on the importance of broadening the donors' base for the Peacebuilding Fund and exploring all innovative financing options, including through engaging the private sector, we should not lose sight of the fact that without assessed contributions, peacebuilding financing will remain a critical challenge. We believe that assessed

contributions will work to ease pressure and minimize dependence on voluntary contributions and traditional donors.

- 8- The African Group strongly supports national ownership and the centrality of local solutions for peacebuilding efforts. In this regard, strategic partnership at the national, regional, and continental levels and national and regional ownership and implementation of all aspects of the peace building from needs assessment, implementation to monitoring and evaluation is overly critical.
- 9- On this basis, Africa strongly supports the allocation of a certain percentage of assessed contributions to peacebuilding efforts, and hence supports the SG's proposal of allocating 100 million USD to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The Fund's catalytic role in supporting peacebuilding initiatives is an important tool and resource for conflict-affected countries.
- 10- The design of new and more sustainable funding sources for the Peacebuilding Fund will certainly strengthen the Fund's role and ability to advance greater strategic alignment of funding and will enhance transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

Mr. Chair

- 11- In conclusion, the Africa Group encourages all delegations to consider this proposal positively. We remain committed to engaging actively and constructively on the discussion on the modalities of operationalizing this proposal. **I thank you.**