

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY MR. FELIX EBOA EBONGUE, COUNSELLOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON, ON AGENDA ITEM 150: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF FINANCING UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: CROSSCUTTING ISSUES, AT THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 3rd May 2022)

Mr. Chair,

1- I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Africa Group on agenda item 150: Administrative and budgetary aspects of financing United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, emphasizing on cross-cutting issues.

2- The Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant-Secretary General and Controller, and Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee, for their respective reports on this Agenda item. The Group also wishes to express its appreciation for the corresponding reports of the Board of Auditors (BoA), the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

3- The Africa Group aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the distinguished representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to make the following additional remarks.

4- The Group reiterates that the overall budget of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations must be commensurate with UN Peacekeeping mandates.

5- This approach is consistent with the Group longstanding position on the role of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) and Programmatic Activities for successful mandate implementation. We underscore the importance of QIPs in building confidence in missions and paving the way for their mandate delivery. These projects also contribute to Force protection by generating support for the military and police components of missions. The lack of support for these projects has become a growing concern for all missions, as well as troop and police contributing cou

Mr. Chair

6- The Africa Group will carefully consider the cross-cutting budget performance and implementation of peacekeeping operations, taking into account the 2020/2021 budget period, and the 2022/2023 budget requirements; and will take this opportunity to alert on the continuous diminution of the overall allocation of resources to peacekeeping missions.

7- The Group notes that despite the positive evolution and the successful management mechanism of Covid-19 by Missions, this pandemic continues to be a threat to life, health, safety and security to UN personnel and host countries. The Group also notes that climate change and environmental hazards have come to increase and complexify the work of peacekeepers and stresses the need for the Committee to take into account the financial requirements of the missions to face these challenges.

Mr. Chairman

8- On the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse, though the remote working conditions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic have help in lowering the number of reported cases, the Group anticipates an increase of these cases with the progressive back to in person working sessions and recommends for an early warning mechanism and a collective vigilance to prevent the occurrence of any form of abuse, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

9- The Group reiterates its full support to the Secretary General policy of zero tolerance to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

10- We take this opportunity to reiterate the need to also develop focus and awareness of racial discrimination, which seems to be gaining space in the Organization. The Group remains committed to the elimination of the scourge of racism and all forms of discrimination in the Organization. We look forward to engaging on the report of the Secretary General's Task Force on Anti-racism.

11- On the issue of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the Group would like to first pay tribute to the uniformed personnel deployed to United Nations missions and recognizes the challenging circumstances under which they operate, that can lead to death and disability, including PTSD. In this regard, the Group notes the Secretary-General's report on PTSD that provides information on a study of PTSD

claims relating to uniformed personnel and the proposals therein for a PTSD framework that is aimed at promoting a sustainable and appropriate approach to the compensation of PTSD claims, and will carefully examine this report during the consideration of this agenda item.

12- On the issue of the TCC Reimbursements, the Group also notes the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries. The Group thanks those Member States who are contributing troops to the service of the United Nations, in particular those Member States who participated in the survey that is aimed at providing sufficient data to enable the review of the standard rate of reimbursement. We look forward to discussing this agenda item during the informal session.

Mr. Chairman,

13- In closing, the Africa Group stands ready to constructively engage on these important issues with a view to concluding in a timely manner.

I thank you