

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MR. FELIX EBOA EBONGUE, SECOND COUNSELOR THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 150: BUDGET OF THE REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE IN ENTEBBE, UGANDA 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 speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 150: Budget of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE), Uganda for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

2. At the onset, the Group would like to thank Mr Chandramouli Ramanathan, **Assistant Secretary-General and Controller** and **Ms. Gaspar Ruas** Vice- **Chair** of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for introducing their respective reports.

The Group thanks the Government and the people of Uganda for the very strong support they provide to the Centre and is confident that this relationship will continue to grow for the benefit of the organization.

3- The African Group aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the representative of Pakistani on behalf of the Group of 77 & China and we wish to add a few remarks.

**Mr. Chair,**

4. The African Group recalls that the General Assembly by resolution 64/269 established the Regional Service Center in Entebbe in July 2010 as the first Shared Service Center for Missions in the region under the Global Field Support Strategy and gave it operational and managerial independence.

5. The Group recognizes the important work carried by the Center in supporting seven (7) Peacekeeping Missions and support offices, and nine (9) Special Political Missions, as well as other Missions in the region, including residual liquidation functions to the closing and closed peacekeeping Missions. The Centre will also continue to provide support to over 77% of the United Nations field operations globally, and serve over 16,400 personnel, including international and national staff as well as uniformed personnel.

6. The Group notes that since its establishment, the workload and volume of transactions carried out by the Centre have increased greatly and therefore underlines the need to allocate resources commensurate with this increasing workload and responsibility, and enable the Centre to carry out its functions and responsibility.

**Mr. Chair,**

7. The Group also wishes to reiterate its previous comments on the issue of continuing contracts for national staffs of the Centre. The Group recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/286, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that national staff of the Centre are granted continuing contracts in line

with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions. We therefore call the Secretary-General to facilitate the issuance of continuing contracts for national staffs that meet the requirements in compliance with Staff Regulations and Rules.

**Mr. Chair,**

8. The Group notes with concern that a total of forty-eight (48) posts were vacant as of 23 March 2022 and will, during these negotiations stress on the need to fill these posts expeditiously as possible

9. On a related matter, the African Group notes the high turnover rate of Staff at the Regional Service Center mainly due to the selection of staff for posts in other United Nations entities, including recruitment on temporary assignment. This we understand is as a result of the increased capacity building and improved skills and expertise of the staff at the Centre and that this practice is expected to continue in this budget period.

10. The African Group while appreciating the Secretary-General and the Centre's increased focus on capacity building of staff, requests the former to consider putting in place favorable incentives for retention of staff and expedite the recruitment and filling of the vacant posts in a timely manner.

**Mr. Chair,**

11. The African Group recalls that the General Assembly has on various occasions requested the Secretary-General to make full use of the Global Procurement Office in Entebbe for procurement in the field and in this regard, reiterates that the Global Procurement Office should be fully utilized, with the aim to increasing local procurement and locally produced materials in construction projects in the region.

12. The Group also notes the complementarity of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe with the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to enhance the synergies between the two support entities, bearing in mind their respective mandates;

13. In this regard, the African Group recalls that the General Assembly in its resolution 75/294 established the Regional Deployment Stock to facilitate rapid deployment of stocks to Missions in the region. We note the report on the revised concept of Strategic Deployment Solutions submitted as an annex to the report of the United Nations Logistics Base and we look forward to discussing this report during the informal consultations, especially on how the Regional Service Centre will continue playing a key role in the Regional Deployment Stocks and of the Centre's representation on the new proposed board of the management of the SDS structure.

14. **IN CONCLUSION**, Mr. Chair, the Group, assures you of our commitment to engage constructively on this important agenda item.

**I THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.**