

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PHILIP ODIDA, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA 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 deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Uganda 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. Uganda aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistani on behalf of the Group of 77 & China and that of the African Group read by the representative of Cameroon. I wish to add a few remarks in my national capacity.
3. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr **Chandru Ramanathan**, the 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.

Mr. Chair,

4. My delegation attaches great importance to the role the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe plays in facilitating the work of the United Nations, most especially on the African Continent. In this respect, my delegation wishes to pledge the unwavering support of the Government of Uganda to the continued operations of the United Nations activities at the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and its peacekeeping operations in the region.
5. My delegation recalls that the Regional Service Center in Entebbe, was established as the first Shared Service Center for Missions in the region under the Global Field Support Strategy and subsequently given operational and managerial independence.
6. I take this opportunity to note that in the current budget period, the Center will support 17 client entities, including (eight) 7 Peacekeeping Missions and (nine) 9 Special Political Missions, as well as other Missions in the region by providing-by-providing human resources, finance, communications, and information technology, transportation, and movement control services. It is, therefore, imperative that adequate resources commensurate with this increasing workload and responsibility are provided to the Centre.
7. My delegation notes with concern that a total of forty-eight (48) posts were vacant as of 23 March 2022. We continue to appeal to the Secretary-General to ensure that the vacant posts in the Centre are filled expeditiously to enable the

Center to have the necessary human resources manpower to perform its functions.

8. Further, my delegation notes the high turnover rate of Staff at the Regional Service who are being selected for posts in other United Nations entities. This has been because of increased capacity building and improved skills and expertise of the staff by the Centre. My delegation appreciates the Secretary-General and the Centre's increased focus on capacity building of staff, and we request that favorable incentives are put in place to encourage staff retention in addition to expediting the recruitment process and fill posts that fall vacant in a timely manner.

9. My delegations also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 72/286, noted that the national staff of the Centre are eligible for continuing contracts and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that they are granted continuing contracts in line with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions, and therefore, urges the Secretary-General to facilitate the issuance of continuing contracts to the national staff that meet the eligibility criteria.

IN CONCLUSION, Mr. Chair, I assure you of my delegation's commitment to engage constructively on this agenda item

I thank you