

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY JOSEPH MASILA,  
MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ON FINANCING OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING  
OPERATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS 155. MONUSCO AND 163. UNMISS, AT  
THE SECOND RESUMED PART OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY – FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**(NEW YORK, 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022)**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group on the financing of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations; **agenda items 155**, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and **163**. United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
2. The African Group wishes to take this early opportunity to thank Madame Bintou Keita, SRSG of MONUSCO, and Mr. Nicholas Haysom the SRSG of UNMISS and their able teams for the warm reception and very informative briefings accorded to the fifth committee during recently concluded field trip in the two missions. We equally recognize the excellent coordination and backstopping provided to the committee throughout the trip by Mr. Lionelito Berridge and Ms. Geraldine Velandria. As indicated in our statement on Tuesday, the resumption of this important visit enabled members of the fifth committee to witness firsthand realities on the ground, while at the same time appreciating the progress being made in the implementation of the mandated activities and challenges the peacekeepers face daily in the course of their duty.
3. The African Group wishes to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Assistant-Secretary General and Controller, for introducing the reports of the Secretary-General. We also wish to extend our appreciation to Ms. Juliana GASPAR RUAS, the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee for introducing the related reports.

4. At the outset, the Group acknowledges with appreciation the invaluable work being dedicated to the attainment and maintenance of international peace and security, and of which the United Nations peacekeeping operations are a key component. We wish to salute all the personnel, both civilian and uniformed who continue to serve diligently in very challenging and sometimes extremely risky environments. We also honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, especially the recent loss of lives of peacekeepers in the DRC and the humanitarian aid workers in South Sudan. We further thank the staff at the United Nations Headquarters that support the work of peacekeepers in the field.
5. Similarly, the Group appreciates the host countries, the Republic of South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo for their cooperation and support to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in the respective States. The Group also commends the TCCs and PCCs operating in these missions for their invaluable contribution and their quest for lasting peace.
6. On budget performance for the 2020/2021 period, we note that the two Missions recorded overall budget implementation rates of 99.4% for UNMISS and 93.2 % for MONUSCO compared to rates of 99.9% and 98.8% respectively in the 2019/20 period. These high rates of implementation came at the backdrop of the COVID-19 which negatively impacted implementation of the planned activities. However, a closer analysis of the expenditure categories reveals that the two Missions overspend in most of the expenditure categories, with the common denominator being over expenditures of 263% and 157% for marine operations for UNMISS and MONUSCO respectively. The African Group will seek to understand the rationale behind some of the significant over expenditures.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. On Quick Impact Projects, the Committee had an opportunity to visit one quick impact project site in each of the two Missions during the field trip: **the Jebel Police Post in Juba, South Sudan** and **the Kalemie Central Prison, in the Democratic Republic of Congo**. These two projects, among others, are a living testimony that Quick-impact projects are and will continue to be an important tool in the Missions' outreach to local communities, strengthening of the institutional capacities of local actors and most importantly addressing the immediate needs of the local communities, including building confidence in the Mission and its mandate. The African Group reiterates once again its position on the need to prioritize and allocate adequate resources for the implementation of quick impact projects. In this regard, we applaud UNMISS for the 20% increase for their Quick impact projects in the 2022/23 budget proposal compared to the preceding period.
  
8. With respect to reducing the environmental footprint of peacekeeping operations, the Group acknowledges the progress made in the implementation of the multiyear environmental strategy in the two Missions. However, during our visit, we noted a lot of dilapidated equipment lying abandoned in mission sites and which continue to pose risk to the environment. These scenarios mirror the current findings of OIOs where despite environmental cleanup in UNAMID, abandoned ballistic helmets and flak jackets were found. During informal consultations, the Group will seek to understand the measures these two missions are proposing in line with the environmental strategy to ensure full compliance with agreed rules and regulations.
  
9. The African Group further reiterates that Local procurement and use of local knowledge and locally produced materials are part of its longstanding priorities, repeatedly captured in General Assembly's resolutions on Peacekeeping Operations. Unfortunately, and despite this clear guidance from the general Assembly, even on products on which the continent has a clear comparative

advantage, there is minimal or sometimes “cosmetic sourcing” of these products. This was evidently clear during the committee’s brief walk through at the UNMISS ration warehouse where most of the product lines are imported with very small proportion sourced from the region. The African Group will interrogate this further during the informal consultations with the view to understanding the efforts being made to promote local and regional procurement.

10. Again, the African Group underlines the important work of both civilian and military personnel in peacekeeping missions and we continue to advocate for a conducive working environment, particularly decent accommodation for the personnel. In our visit to Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we witnessed firsthand significant issues of maintenance of the prefabricated structures housing the personnel. During the informal consultations, we will endeavour to understand the ways in which the missions are working to better the living conditions of personnel.

11. We remain concerned with the decision to cut the maintenance substance allowance (MSA) for individual uniformed personnel (IUPs) in some missions such as UNMISS among others. These personnel are the driving force of the missions, and such decisions may have a negative impact on the mission’s operational performance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

12. In concluding, the African Group applauds the efforts of humanitarian partners, agencies, the UN Country team and their workers for their continuous assistance especially to the people of South Sudan under very challenging circumstances. We take note that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is growing and is currently estimated at 8.9 million people mainly due to compounding shocks, including persistent flooding, ongoing violence and displacement, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. Our visit to Bentiu left no

doubt on the urgent need for humanitarian support and the critical role being played by the mission to support the internally displaced persons and importantly the urgent need for resources to support these efforts.

13. Lastly Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the African Group I reiterate our commitment to engage constructively to arrive at a successful outcome for these agenda and other agenda items.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**