

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP BY MR EBOA EBONGUE FELIX, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE RESUMED 76TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022)**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Group on the organization of work for the first part of the resumed 76<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.
2. The Group expresses its appreciation for the excellent work done by your Excellency and the Bureau during the main part of the 76<sup>th</sup> session and is confident that this first resumed session will also yield positive outcome, resulting in the conclusion of some longstanding issues.
3. The Africa Group also takes this opportunity to reiterate its appreciation of the excellent work of the Fifth Committee Secretariat, under the leadership of Mr. Lionel Berridge.
4. The Group wishes to seize the opportunity of this first meeting of the Fifth Committee in 2022 to welcome Pakistan as the current Chair of the Group of 77 and China and to reiterate its full support during its leadership of our Group. The Group also commends the remarkable chairmanship of the Republic of Guinea, particularly during the current challenging circumstances.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Group aligns itself with the statement just delivered by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to make the following additional remarks.
6. Despite efforts from the Secretariat, the Group continues to note some delay in the issuance of documents in all working languages of the Organization.

The Group looks forward to the timely issuance of reports by the Secretariat and ACABQ, according to the Rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Group regrets to be in a position to reiterate this request, as timely submission of working documents is a prerequisite to a positive conclusion of the work of this committee.

7. In a similar line of thought, the Africa Group wishes to stress that the availability of simultaneous interpretation during critical parts of the work of this Committee, in addition to the formal meetings is expected. Indeed, after exactly two calendar years of operating under Covid working methods, it is only fair to expect that all delegations are able to equally participate in the Questions and Answers meetings, as well as the introduction of languages, at the least.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. The Africa Group believes Human resources to be the first and foremost asset of the Organization and therefore appreciates that the first resumed session be primarily dedicated to Human resources Management in all its aspects, such as Composition of the Secretariat and desirable ranges, Human Resources Management Strategy, just to name a few.

9. The session also allows opportunity to consider other important matters such as the Revised estimates relating to UNSMIL; the Utilization of the contingency fund and the Joint Inspection Unit, among others.

10. The Group is however worried that other subjects with less or no direct link with Human Resources Management, find their way into the first resumed session, making it even more overloaded, and thus preventing member states to exhaust the programme of work before them or even seriously consider each and every point on the agenda. The Africa Group therefore insists that overwhelming the first resumed session with unclosed items from the main session is a practice that needs to be discontinued.

11. With regards to the substance of Human Resources matters, the Group, under the guidance of the Group of 77 and China, will focus on the diversification of the workforce, insisting on the equitable geographical

representation, the financial support for the internship program, but also on the recruitment process and the mobility of personnel, among others.

**Mr. Chair,**

12. As already mentioned, the first resumed session is a short session; it therefore compels us to directly engage into negotiations without delay. Rest assured that the Africa Group will spare no energy in making this session a successful one in a timely manner.

13. To conclude Mr. chair, the Africa group is of the view that some of the questions before us are long pending and need to see some progress. Status quo is no longer an option if we do not want to see our common house fall apart. Times change, situations change as well. The Group considers that proper guidance to the Secretary General with the aim of properly reflecting these evolutions are of utmost importance. As a committee, we owe it to the dedicated personnel and moreover, we owe it to the ideal and goals of our Organization. An obsolete Human Resources Management strategy will inevitably lead to a failed organization, which I believe, none of us want.

14. The Group encourages all stakeholders to promptly cooperate with one another in order to conclude successfully this session. I assure you this has always been and will continue to be the spirit and mindset of the Africa group for this session.

I thank you