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Statement
On behalf of the African Group

by

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Before the Sixth Committee

74th session of the United Nations General Assembly

**“Request for Observer Status for
the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly”**

Agenda Item 171

New York, 18th October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on this agenda item: **“Request for Observer Status for the Group of Seven Plus in the General Assembly”**.

The African Group thanks the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Sierra Leone for the introduction of the draft resolution circulated as document [A/C.6/74/L.2]. The Group is appreciative of the fact that the draft resolution was prepared in the standard format for the General Assembly resolutions on request for observer status. We thank the Secretary-General for circulating the request for the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the General Assembly, document number A/74/214, and duly note the explanatory memorandum in the annex.

I have the high honour to express the support of the African Group for the draft resolution introduced on this agenda item. Indeed 15 of the 20 Member States of the Group of Seven Plus are members of the African Group, but our support for the draft resolution transcends the membership nexus.

Mr. Chairman,

By General Assembly decision 49/426 of 9th December 1994, the granting of observer status in the General Assembly is confined “to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly”. The African Group duly notes with satisfaction that the Group of Seven Plus is a treaty governed intergovernmental organization, with legal personality, as evidenced in their constitutive charter adopted in Lome, Togo in 2014.

Following the activities of the Group of Seven Plus, we further note from document A/74/214, are centered on peace-building and State-building. The Group of Seven Plus membership comprise countries that have experienced periods of instability and conflict, and are now advocating for peaceful resolution of conflicts through country-led dialogue and reconciliation; and promoting principles of effective engagement, cooperation and peer learning. These activities are of interest to the General Assembly. Indeed observer status at the General Assembly will enable the

Group of Seven Plus to have an avenue through which it can pursue its objectives and provide collective input in the agenda and work of the United Nations, particularly on sustaining international peace and security, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

The common factor amongst the Member States of the Group of Seven Plus is that all of them are either post-conflict or conflict-affected States faced with the challenges of fragility. The work of the United Nations is to ensure such countries, including the Member States of the Group of Seven Plus, recover fully from conflict, consolidate peace and pursue development. Granting observer status to the Group will therefore provide the platform for the Group to carry out its objectives, enrich the deliberation of the General Assembly, thereby assisting the United Nations in carrying out its mandate.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, the African Group joins the call for broad support from all Member States for this draft resolution.

We thank you.