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<Kindly Check Against Delivery>

Mr. Chairman,

The Group would like to appreciate the efforts of the Bureau for preparing the programme of work and we took note of the designation of the facilitators of the various agenda items that are to be considered during this part of the session. It is our understanding that, the programme of work will be updated regularly taking into account of the progress in the negotiations and the availability of documents.

The Group notes that during the second resumed part which is dedicated for administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the peacekeeping, the Committee is expected to consider about 90 voluminous documents with the majority of documents not ready on time and not translated into all the official languages. It is therefore regrettable that we once again have to register our concern of the late submission of large number of reports.

The Group also notes that the calendar of the Advisory Committee on the reports for this part of the session is also lagging behind a situation that could impact negatively the work of this and other intergovernmental machineries if not addressed immediately. The Committee would like to encourage all stakeholders to triple their efforts to ensure all documents are presented to the Committee in a timely manner. We also reiterates our position on the need to transform the Advisory Committee including revising the calendar and extending working sessions in line with improvement of the condition of service so as to enable the Committee deliver its increased workloads.

Mr. Chairman,

On the separate Note, the African Group would like to appreciate efforts of the Department of Field Support (DFS), Peacekeeping Operation (DPKO) and other field based offices related to facilitation of the Fifth Committee field trip conducted in February this year. The visit enabled our Group to note a number of progress and challenges that peacekeeping missions are facing, and it is in this background that our findings from the field mission visit will be applied, as appropriate to carefully scrutinize the budgetary proposals to ensure that, issues observed in the ground are addressed through the decisions to be adopted.

In this part of the session, the African Group will also take keen interest in looking carefully at the performance and proposals for all the closed and active peacekeeping operations, United Nations Support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, Regional Service Center in Entebbe as well as proposed budget for special political missions and oversight matters under the Board of Auditors and the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

