

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP BY MRS. CAROLINE NALWANGA MAGAMBO, COUNSELOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEM 136: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 2018-2019: PROGRESS ON THE REPLACEMENT OF OFFICE BLOCKS A TO J AT THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT NAIROBI. MAIN SESSION OF SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**(NEW YORK, 18 OCTOBER, 2018)**

Madame Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 136: Programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 in relation to the progress on the replacement of office blocks A to J at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

The Group would like to thank Mrs. Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Director General of United Office in Nairobi (UNON) for introducing the Secretary-General's report and also extend our appreciation to Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for introducing its related report. The Group also acknowledges the presence of Mr Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Central Support Services.

Madame Chair

At the outset, the African Group aligns itself with the Statement just delivered by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The Group expresses its gratitude to the Government of Kenya for their continued support of the United Nations Office in Nairobi and trusts that the Secretary-General will continue to engage with the Government of Kenya to ensure a successful outcome of the project.

We also take cognizance that the Government of Kenya has demonstrated its commitment to hosting of the Nairobi based United Nations Headquarters for Environment and Human Settlements by allocating the land on which UNON stands.

The African group welcomes the commitment of the Secretary-General in providing sufficient accommodation and related facilities for UN staff in the various UN duty locations pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/262 A and specifically the replacement of Blocks A-J at the UN offices in Nairobi.

