

5. The Group will carefully consider the cross-cutting budget performance and implementation of peacekeeping operations, bearing in mind the continued reductions in the budget we see annually. We will also examine keenly the areas that these reductions are impacting, taking into account that for the 2018/2019, the 2019/2020 budget periods, and the 2020/2021 budget requirements, reductions have continued to be made, potentially leaving other more essential and closer to the ground activities in peacekeeping operations without the necessary support.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We continue to note with budg000912 0 10 ne

operations as a tool to effectively pursue political processes and wider mandate delivery. The Security Council has in recent years expanded the number of programmatic activities it tasks peacekeeping operations with, with a view to preventing and resolving conflicts and building a lasting peace. Against this backdrop, we request that the General Assembly do likewise and support programmatic activities with adequate financial resources.

Mr. Chairman

9. On the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse, the Group reaffirms

Mr. Chairman,

12. Considering that 7 out of the 12 active peacekeeping Missions are in Africa and that the Secretary General has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on UN-African Union partnership in peacebuilding, the African Group recognizes the important role played by regional and sub-regional actors in peacekeeping operations and would take the opportunity to appreciate measures taken by the Secretary General to deepen the partnership, cooperation and coordination of the United Nations with regional and Sub-regional actors in accordance with relevant mandates.

13. Allow me in closing, Mr. Chairman, to reiterate the importance of providing all PKO's with adequate resources to ensure that they fully implement their mandates. The African Group will therefore not subscribe to any approach of prejudging the mandate of any peacekeeping operation, but is ready to constructively engage on these important issues with a view to concluding this agenda item in a timely manner.

I Thank You