





6. The Africa Group in this regard reaffirms its position that the Secretary-General should be allocated the resources required to execute the mandate prescribed by the General Assembly; more so in these exceptional times when the United Nations is being called upon to do more.

**Mr. Chairman**

7. The Africa Group will actively participate in the Committee's deliberations on the budget and we shall exert all efforts to appropriate the required funding for all relevant items, including: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Economic and Social development in Africa, and Construction and property management.
8. At the 75th session of the General Assembly, the Africa Group encouraged the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa to continue improving on the content and structure of the Office, so as to make it a strategic tool for the development of the continent in the context of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, the Africa we want. The Group will want to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are given to the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa to carry out its mandate

Special Political Missions serve as early warning mechanisms in conflict situations, it is imperative that we adequately resource them so as to lessen the need to fund Peacekeeping Operations. These measures will go a long way in saving lives and preserving the integrity of States from the scourge of conflict.

11. On Programme Planning, we wish to reiterate our long-standing support to the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming, evaluation and coordination. The Group is concerned that the Committee continues to witness an increase in the number of programmes that remain open due to lack of consensus. The Group stresses the fundamental role of the CPC and denounces the politicization of its work. Additionally, the Group wishes to recall the rules and procedures of CPC and stresses that implementation of resolution 75/243, paragraph 9, is vital to ensure an effective and efficient outcome of the overarching Programme Budget negotiations.
12. The Africa Group insists that open programmes should be reviewed by the General Assembly Plenary or the relevant Main Committees where their mandates emanate from. The Group urges the affected Main Committees to consider the said programmes as soon as possible to enable the Fifth Committee to approve the related budget, in a timely manner.

### **Mr. Chairman**

13. The Africa Group cannot stress enough the significance of more in-person meetings to handle the work of the Fifth Committee, especially the budget discussions. Our Group's involvement in the work of the Committee is seriously hampered by virtual mediums which lack interpretation services, thus, excluding a significant number of our Group.
14. We thus emphasize the need to utilize every possible slot in the Programme of Work to grant in-person meetings for the introduction of

agenda items, Q&As, and, more importantly, once we engage on the drafting of resolutions.

15. Finally, Mr. Chairman, rest assured that the Africa Group will be engaging