

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
AMBASSADOR ISMAEL A. GASPAR MARTINS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 161: FINANCING OF THE AFRICA
UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN
DARFUR FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2007
TO 30 JUNE 2008 (UNAMID)**

19 NOVEMBER 2007

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group expresses its appreciation to Mr. Warren Sach, the Controller, for introducing the Secretary-General's proposed budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), contained in document A/62/380. We also wish to thank the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, Mr. Rajat Saha, for his introduction of the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/540).

Mr. Chairman

The African Group fully supports the deployment of UNAMID as per Security Council Resolution 1769. UNAMID is a result of constructive consultations and

cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan.

In this context the Group welcomes the first proposed budget covering the financial period from 1 July 2007 until June 30, 2008 for UNAMID.

Mr. Chairman,

The Group would like to draw attention to UNAMID's unique, complex and multidimensional nature. Owing to the scope, vastness and hybrid nature of the operation, the African Group fully supports the Secretary General's proposed structure and resources for UNAMID.

The African Group supports the plan to rapidly deploy a robust peacekeeping force in Darfur. No effort should be spared to give the operation the necessary resources to execute its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the exceptional measure taken by the Secretariat, which resulted in granting a contract to the value of \$250 million on a "single bid" basis, the Group expresses the view that the process should have been open to competitive bidding. It should have been done in a manner that ensures the timely deployment of the operation. Qualified bidders from different regions, including developing countries particularly Africa, should have had equal access to an open and fair competitive bidding process.

Mr. Chairman,

Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) recalled the Addis Ababa Agreement, which states that, UNAMID "should have a predominantly African character and the troops, and should as far as possible be sourced from African countries". We are encouraged that numerous African countries have pledged to send their

peacekeepers and equipment in support of the operation, while other Member States have also pledged their troops and resources.

The Group calls on the Secretariat to expedite the process of personnel recruitment and force deployment. The Group is of the view that the proposed structure for this complex operation is compatible with its mandate, and that any restructuring at this stage could negatively impact on the effective implementation of the operation's mandate.

In conformity with resolution 1769, we need to give the Secretary General adequate resources to "begin deployment of the command and control structures and systems necessary to ensure a seamless transfer of authority from the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to UNAMID.

We emphasize that the approval of the proposed budget for UNAMID should bring to an end the flexible use of the resources already approved for UNMIS so as to ensure the effective operation of both important missions.

We must appropriate resources commensurate with the challenges that UNAMID will face. UNAMID has immense operational support requirements, and as such we should ensure that it is adequately resourced.

The Group wishes to stress the importance of the ongoing close co-ordination and co-operation between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan to ensure a lasting solution to the situation in Darfur.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that the role of international partners and donors will remain critical for the successful implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and post-conflict reconstruction development efforts in the Sudan.

The AU has a Comprehensive African Strategy for Post Conflict Reconstruction in the Sudan, which sets out clear and time-bound actions and will be co-ordinated with reconstruction efforts funded by donor countries. UNAMID has a

critical role to play towards co-ordinating international efforts in support of immediate assistance to, and the long-term economic development of the Sudan. It is therefore imperative that the General Assembly provides the operation with the means necessary to implement its mandate.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

We should not lose sight of the urgent need to support the Darfur Peace Process. We should equally take into account the mandates and decisions of the General Assembly and the rules and regulations of the Organization. We look forward to productive and constructive discussions on the proposed UNAMID budget.

I thank you.