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STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE

FOURTH COMMITTEE

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 57:
"COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS"
(A/70/400, A/70/95 AND A/70/357)**

DURING

THE

70TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Friday, November 6, 2015
United Nations, New York

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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

My delegation is delighted to see you chairing this session of the Committee. We commend you for the leadership you have shown in conducting the affairs of this Committee.

We welcome the statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support. We also welcome the report of the Secretary-General A/70/400 on the "Overall Policy Matters Pertaining to Special Political Missions".

Kenya associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya highly values the important work being done throughout the world by special political missions and in particular, their central role in the activities of the United Nations relating to international peace and security.

We believe they have a vital role to play in conflict prevention, peace-making and peace-building.

Kenya attaches great importance to conflict prevention and mediation at the sub-regional, regional and global levels.

Considering the increase in conflicts over the last eight years, we are convinced the work of special political missions is becoming more significant than ever.

As the Secretary-General has pointed out in his report, the complex new reality and the challenges it poses, will affect not only special political missions but also peacekeeping operations.

My delegation concurs with the message from the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and the Secretary-General's recent report on the future of the United Nations peace operations (A/70/357, S/2015/682), in which he observed: "The pursuit of political solutions to conflicts should lie at the heart of the United Nations peace and security arrangements".

We also believe it will be necessary to change the way we plan and conduct our peace operations to make them more responsive on the ground in view of the complex new realities.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the renewed emphasis on conflict prevention and mediation highlighted in the message of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peace-Building Architecture.

The prevention of conflict is certainly an important component of efforts to sustain peace. It deserves greater attention. In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, if we work together to support preventive diplomacy including mediation, negotiation, good offices and special political missions only then can we achieve peace.

This, once again, emphasizes the role of political missions as an important operational tool for conflict prevention.

Kenya would like to underline the importance of a strong and effective partnership between special political missions and regional and sub-regional organizations. We are pleased to learn that there are ongoing efforts by the United Nations to deepen such partnerships which can give impetus to implementation of the mandates of political missions.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya welcomes the proposal to strengthen the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA). In addition, we support proposals aimed at redefining the Support Offices clients to include AMISOM, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the Somali National.

We believe it will enhance co-ordination and coherence of conflict prevention and resolution.

We fully support the inclusion of women in the peace and security agenda and especially in the work of the special political missions. Their participation in all aspects pertaining to peace and security should be enhanced.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman**, my delegation wishes once again to re-affirm the importance we attach to special political missions.

They provide a viable solution to prevention of conflict. It is our conviction that it is only by redoubling our efforts that we can work towards attaining our collective of objective resolving conflict and attaining sustainable peace.

I thank you.